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THE TIMES 35P

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THURSDAY DECEMBER 19 1996

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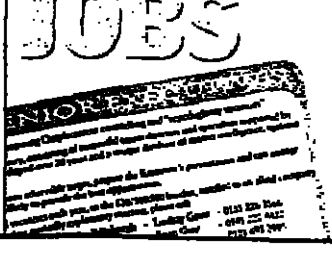

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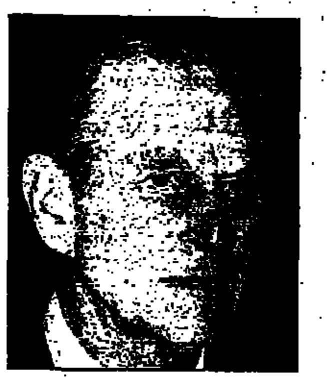
SECTION 2

Prince Philip snipes at Bill to ban handguns after Dunblane



Prince Philip: Bill unfair

By Jill Sherman, Andrew Pierce and Bill Frost

THE Duke of Edinburgh yesterday suggested that members of shooting clubs were no more dangerous than members of golf or squash clubs.

Prince Philip took the unusual step of commenting on government policy by implying that the new legislation to ban certain handguns would be ineffective because it would not prevent weapons getting into the hands of criminals.

In an interview with BBC Radio Five Live's *Inside Edge*, he said: "I sympathise desperately with the people who are bereaved at Dunblane, but I'm not altogether convinced that it's the best system to somehow shift the blame on to a very large and peaceable part of the community."

He added: "I mean ... if a cricketer, for instance, suddenly decided to go into a school and batter a lot of people to death with a cricket bat which he could do very easily, I mean are you going to ban cricket bats? There's no evidence that people who use weapons for sport are any more dangerous than people who use golf clubs or tennis rackets or cricket bats." He called for MPs and campaigners to pause and think before the legislation became law.

His comments were warmly welcomed by the shooting lobby but deplored by anti-gun campaigners, who said they were "sickened" by his views on gun sports.

Ann Pearston, one of the Dunblane Snowdrop petition organisers, said: "To think of the Queen coming up here and laying a wreath at our school and then hearing her husband say something like this sickens me — it is the Royal Family giving with one hand and taking away from the other."

The Firearms (Amendment) Bill is going through the House of Lords, where it has been opposed by more than 40 peers. Although it achieved its Second Reading this week, peers are threatening to rebel during the committee stage of the Bill, which bans all handguns over 0.22 calibre.

The Earl of Shrewsbury, the Government's chief adviser on gun laws, has also criticised the proposed legislation, accusing politicians on all sides of "a disastrous kneejerk reaction".

Prince Philip said in his prerecorded interview, to be broadcast tonight, that it was important to make a difference between what "the weapons can do and what the people can do". He added: "There are always going to be unstable people who are going to do monstrous things. We know that. But I don't think it helps by taking it out on the rest of the population."

He believed transferring the blame for the killing of 16 children and their teacher last March on to "sport shooters" was "a little unreasonable". He understood those calling for a total handgun ban but argued that the main problem was that the legislation would not work as it had to be enforceable. Existing regulations on owning guns should be tightened instead, he said.

The shooting lobby was delighted by the Prince's intervention. Michael Yardley, for the Sportsman's Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, said: "Clearly there has been a scapegoating of the shooting community since the Dunblane tragedy, probably because Thomas Hamilton is dead and not available to face the music."

It is estimated that in the past 30 years the Prince has shot a tiger, two crocodiles, 60 wild boar, stags, rabbits, ducks and at least 30,000 pheasant.

Embassy siege rebels threaten to kill hostages

By David Adams, Latin America Correspondent, and Our Foreign Staff

GUERRILLAS who took nearly 500 diplomats, politicians, business leaders and other officials hostage at a glittering embassy reception in Lima threatened last night to start shooting their captives one by one.

The leftist rebels got in to the Japanese Ambassador's residence disguised as waiters carrying champagne and hors d'oeuvres on Tuesday night, and promptly let off explosives and starting firing automatic weapons. One of the 23 rebels was wounded in a hour-long gunfight with police, and 170 women and elderly hostages were eventually released.

Yesterday, 21 hours after the siege began, the invaders demanded face-to-face talks with Peru's President Fujimori and said that unless they got their way, they would start shooting the hostages, with the Foreign Minister Francisco Tudela the first victim.

As the Peruvian Cabinet held an emergency session to discuss the crisis, smoke could be seen above the 15ft walls around the residence, which was surrounded by police and troops. At the same time, marksmen patrolled the roofs of neighbouring buildings.

The guerrillas, who claim to be from the far left Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, are demanding the release of a number of jailed comrades, a review of prison conditions and curbs on the Japanese influence on the Government's economic policy. President Fujimori is of Japanese origin.

"What we are asking is the liberation of all of our comrades, who are being mistreated and tortured in the dungeons of the various prisons," a spokesman said. "We are clear: the liberation of all our prisoners, or we die with all the hostages."

Besides Señor Tudela, the hostages include Peru's Agriculture Minister, the Speaker, six members of Parliament and the president of the Supreme Court, as well as some 18 foreign ambassadors and scores of other diplomats — including Britain's Roger Church. The heads of more than a dozen Japanese firms are among the business leaders being held, along with military officers, teachers and representatives of about 20 Japanese associations who had gone to the residence to celebrate Emperor Akihito's birthday. The President's wife and mother and sister were among those released.

Yesterday morning a representative from the International Red Cross entered the compound to act as mediator and four more hostages were freed. The Japanese Ambassador, Morihisa Aoki, said that apart from one rebel, no one had been injured and that everyone was safe.

Sally Bowen, a British freelance journalist who was among the first group of hostages to be freed, last night described how she had been eating and drinking in a marquee on the lawn with other women "dressed up to the nines" when the guerrillas struck. She said she heard a huge explosion, followed 90 seconds later by automatic gunfire: "That indicated that something really serious was happening. It was fairly intense gunfire. There was machinegun fire then heavier fire, which sounded like artillery."

Within moments, guerrillas wearing red and white scarves appeared and, using loudhailers, told the guests to lie face down on the floor. "They thratened that if we lifted our heads we would be shot," Ms Bowen said.

The guests, who were "fairly quiet" and in a state of "controlled panic", remained on the floor for about 40 minutes until the gunfire died down and then they were divided up and hustled into the rooms of the residence. Ms Bowen, who was released about four hours after the siege began, said she saw eight or nine guerrillas, including two women, and assumed that at least as many more were elsewhere in the embassy compound.

Church: British envoy

MARTIN MEJIA/AP

A plain-clothed police officer waves a pistol as some of the hostages are freed from the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima yesterday

Testing resolve, page 13
Matthew Parris, page 16

Muslim protest at carol concert

Parents have called for a public apology after an Asian teacher interrupted a school carol concert and berated Muslim pupils for taking part.

The 120-strong choir, which includes 40 Muslims, had just launched into *Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas* when the maths teacher allegedly began shouting: "Who is your God?" .... Page 3

Clarke set to win euro assurance

Kenneth Clarke will ask for and almost certainly receive final Cabinet agreement that the Government's wait-and-see policy on the single currency cannot be changed before the election. He rushed forward a Treasury paper for today's meeting .... Page 2

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Paedophile lists for police

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

PAEDOPHILES and other sex offenders will have to register their addresses with the police under sweeping plans announced yesterday.

Ministers are also considering an American system in which communities are informed when paedophiles move into the district. David Maclean, a Home Office Minister, confirmed that discussions over such a scheme is being held with senior police officers.

But he warned of the danger of vigilante action in which enraged members of the public took action against convicted sex offenders. "There is the danger of people getting it wrong," he said. "But against that we have to get the balance — would it actually help protect the public?" added Mr Maclean, who was speaking on Radio 4's *Today* programme only hours before the Government unveiled a Bill to set up a nationwide register of sex offenders. The Bill will force offenders to give their addresses to police, who will put it on the police national computer, every time they move.

The Bill also includes a measures to allow British sex tourists, who commit offences abroad particularly in Sri Lanka, Thailand, and the Phillipines, to be prosecuted in this country.

But the Government is to consult further on a plan to make it a criminal offence for a convicted sex offender to seek employment in jobs giving them access to children.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, said that the Sex Offenders Bill published yesterday would help protect the public: "This Bill would provide the police with the information they need to apprehend sex offenders, and help them to protect the public from those who would seek to do harm to children."

It is the latest in a series of Government measures targeting sex offenders including mandatory life sentences for second time serious sex

Continued on page 2, col 2

Total of jobless is lowest in six years

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

FOR the first time in almost six years, the number of people out of work has dropped below two million, boosting the Government's hopes of further growth in the economy before a general election must be held.

A fall of 95,800 last month took the seasonally adjusted total to 1,929,400. The fall, the biggest since current records began, was hailed by John Major as "a great Christmas present for Britain". The Prime Minister claimed that the economy was now "the lion that roars in Europe".

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, asked if an early election was now more likely, said: "The figures are getting better and better. Why not wait?" Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, said: "My confident expectation is that the economy is going to continue to strengthen. The spring is going to be a very attractive one."

Westminster took these remarks as a clear indication that the Government will delay the election for as long as possible.

Largest fall, page 21
Leading article, page 17

How truant Blair took off on a charter flight of fancy

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

THE best kept secret of Tony Blair's schooldays was revealed last night when he confessed that he sneaked on to a plane destined for the Bahamas at the age of 14 to escape the horrors of public school.

Mr Blair said "the craziest thing" he had ever done happened after his parents put him on a train in Newcastle to return to Fettes College in Edinburgh.

"My parents saw me off on the train. I went down the carriage and got off the other end, went into the gents, changed into my casual clothes and went outside the station," the Labour leader said.

He then made his way to Newcastle Airport, evaded all security, and joined charter passengers on a flight to the Bahamas.

"I snuck on to the plane, and we were literally about to take off when the stewardess came up to me and said: 'I don't think I actually saw your boarding pass'," he told Des O'Connor on his *Tonight* programme on ITV.

However, Mr Blair's dramatic disclosure astonished his friends and family, not least his father, who drove him back to the school on the day he played truant.

"The Bahamas? Who said that? Tony? Never. It's news to me," said Leo Blair, 73, last night.

"He only got as far as the airport. He never got on the plane. It was not possible. He never had a passport. But I'm not supposed to say anything. I have been told to shut up by Tony's office. But it's nothing like that at all."

Leo Blair was not the only person baffled by the story. A spokeswoman for Newcastle Airport said: "In our 61-year history we have never had any flights to the Bahamas from here."

Mr Blair senior thought his son was confused. He said: "He was unhappy at Fettes. It was nothing to do with the discipline. He was slippered three times at prep school in Durham and never complained. He could not face going back after being at home. The first we knew he had slipped off the train was when the headmaster telephoned to say he was at the airport."

Alistair Campbell, an Edinburgh solicitor who was a classmate of Mr Blair's, was also bemused. "It's news to me. Nobody said a word at the time or ever since."

"We've been inundated with one-way tickets to the Bahamas"

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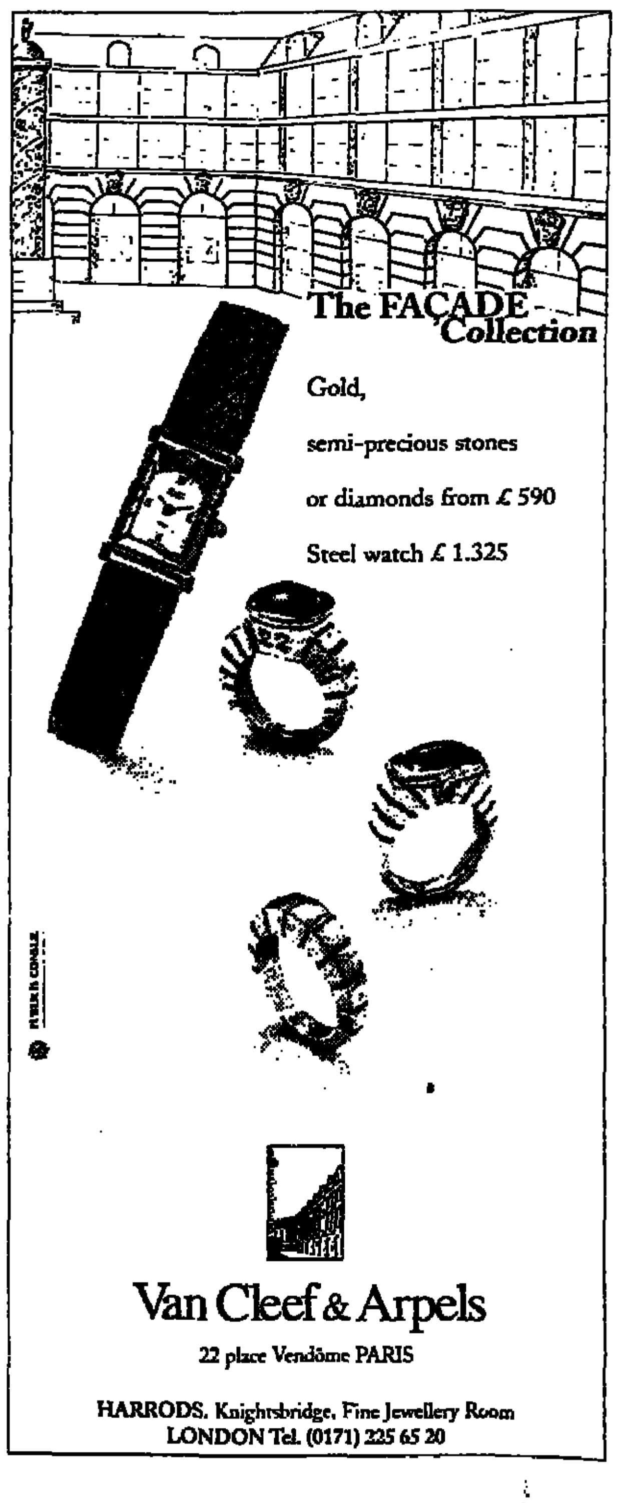

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What is this innocent gentleman doing in a squabbling Commons?

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Facing the Celtic music at Scottish Questions in the Commons yesterday was the ever-diffident, super-courteous junior minister, Lord James Douglas-Hamilton. Undoubtedly the politest politician at Westminster, Lord James is an Oxford (lightweight) boxing Blue.

His father, the 14th Duke of Hamilton, was the first man to fly over Everest, and the target of the Hess mission. In 1993 Lord James wrote a book about the episode. *The Truth About Rudolf Hess*.

Few are quite sure what a Lord is doing in the Commons in the first place. Some suppose it a mystery of the arcane rules of Scottish aristocracy; or has Douglas-Hamilton, looking for the Upper Chamber, wandered into the Commons by mistake and been too embarrassed to make his excuses and leave?

All enjoy the story about his first week as a minister, during which he had to be restrained from opening the chauffeur's car door for him.

But a new Douglas-Hamilton story has just reached me — from a usually impeccable source. Apparently Lord James was assigned the task of representing the Scottish Office at a symposium on the spread of Aids.

Conscientiously, he asked for a briefing and his staff provided extensive background reading material.

Lord James read carefully, until reaching a passage which appeared to trouble him.

With many apologies he called a private secretary to his side. "Er, what does this word mean?" he said, pointing.

"Which word?" the secretary replied, for the minister seemed to be pointing at the word 'heterosexual'. "*That* one," he stammered: "het-het-heterosexual".

The embarrassed functionary explained as best he could to Lord James, who is married with four sons.

If this story is true, he will be the modern counterpart of Molière's Bourgeois Gentleman, who asked his newly-appointed tutor what the word "prose" meant, and, on being informed, danced around in delight at the discovery that he should have been speaking prose all his life — but only now become aware of his capacity to do so.

Lord James had been a heterosexual for nearly half a century, without knowing it.

Happily for the minister, Labour MPs seemed yesterday to have forgotten the Hamilton family's distinguished background in aviation, or he would have been the butt of their jokes about the special RAF flight which (apparently) brought Scottish minister George Kynoch back for Monday's controversial vote on European fisheries.

In a question about the cost of the old Skye ferry, Labour spokesman Helen Liddell asked how many ferry passages could have been paid for from the cost of one RAF flight to London. Mr Kynoch, trying not to squirm, accused her of "demeaning herself".

George Kynoch, an increasingly confident minister with a clipped Scots accent, looks and speaks like a floor manager in an upmarket gentleman's tailors, the kind Lord James would patronise.

Their boss, the Scottish Secretary Michael Forsyth, remarked that he would gladly have "strapped the hon Member for Cunninghame N" (Labour's Brian Wilson) "to one wing."

As you see, a mood of merry good-will gripped MPs as they departed for Christmas. Contributing to it, Madam Speaker snapped, and told Labour's Michael Connarty (Falkirk E) to cease "prattling from a sedentary position".

It has taken her a long time to notice.

Only the Tories' Lady Olga *Maitland* (another mysterious Ladyship!) sounded optimistic, speaking of the "saycial chapter".

Lady Olga's accent suggested this chapter might be found in *Harpers & Queen*. She would be in it.

Clarke to call for Cabinet backing over EMU policy

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

KENNETH CLARKE will seek — and almost certainly receive — final Cabinet agreement today that the Government's wait-and-see policy on the single currency cannot be changed before the general election.

But a group of senior ministers led by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, is expected to argue that the Government should, while leaving options open, declare before the election that the chances of Britain joining the single currency during the next Parliament are highly unlikely.

The surprise new Cabinet discussion on the single currency follows Mr Clarke's decision to rush forward a Treasury paper for today's meeting which apparently kills the hopes of the Eurosceptics that evidence of fudging the entry criteria by several countries is now so clear that the Government could rule out membership and fight the election on saving the pound.

The paper was called for by Mr Howard two weeks ago in the expectation that it would be produced in the new year. But Mr Clarke has moved swiftly. According to senior government sources the paper, which suggests that no judgment can be made on fudging until the early months of 1998, "blows a hole" in Mr Howard's case.

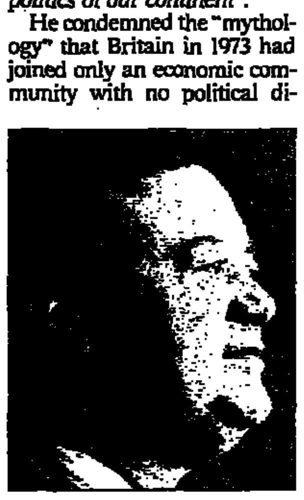
However, the Home Secretary, will be strongly backed in his demand for John Major and Mr Clarke to issue a sceptical declaration on monetary union by Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, William Hague, the Welsh Secretary, and Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary.

Sources said that the case for a declaration from the Government was strengthening and had not been compromised by the paper.

Mr Clarke's confidence was demonstrated yesterday when he rejected demands for Britain to renegotiate the terms of its European Union membership or rule out participation in a single currency. He issued what was perhaps his strongest defence of the EU and Britain's part in it.

Without going as far as enraging the sceptics by backing participation in a single currency, he said Britain's economic success depended on remaining a "key player in the *politics of our continent*".

He condemned the "mythology" that Britain in 1973 had joined only an economic community with no political dimension. It had joined to increase its influence in the world and the decision had also involved the explicit pooling of some legal sovereignty in limited and specific areas set down in the Treaty of Rome. This was a "conscious political decision" and its implications were discussed extensively in Parliament.



Clarke: says Britain's influence is at stake

Mr Clarke's address to the Royal Institute of International Affairs at Chatham House underlined his reputation as the Cabinet's most enthusiastic pro-European. But there was some comfort for the Euro-sceptics in his argument that the "relentless pursuit of a centralised vision" was looking more and more out of date.

Mr Clarke took a sideswipe at those who suggested that Britain could continue to attract significant inward investment outside the EU. "People do not invest in Britain, they do not acquire our companies, they do not create jobs in this country because they like our golf courses or to practise their English. They do it because they see Britain as a high-skill, low-tax, flexible, business-friendly entry point into the big, rich consumer market place which is Europe today.

"As a country, we cannot choose to live by the European market place economically and then exclude ourselves from discussion of the political future of our continent. That is the path of those who would seek British withdrawal from the EU or a fundamental re-negotiation of our membership terms. It is one which we rightly reject."

MARTIN McCULLOUGH

Norma and John Major touring Rush Primary School in Dungannon during their Christmas visit to Northern Ireland yesterday. The Prime Minister conceded that the peace process had taken a backward step over the year but, although he was "no starry-eyed optimist", be believed there were grounds for hope for the future

Tories 'lied as well as cheated'

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

RELATIONS between the two main political parties deteriorated further yesterday as Labour accused the Tories of lying as well as cheating in their handling of key parliamentary votes.

Tory MPs left Westminster for the Christmas break facing the prospect of bitter skirmishes in Parliament in the new year after Labour confirmed that it would not co-operate with "pairing" arrangements to ease business through the Commons. Normally, a Tory MP and an opposition MP agree to absent themselves from Commons divisions with their whips' permission and cancel out each others' votes.

Labour's pledge to withdraw from the convention means that Tory MPs will have to endure long hours in the Commons ready to vote in case Labour attempts to defeat the Government. Ministers will also be forced to rush back from meetings abroad to attend votes on routine legislation.

Donald Dewar, Labour's Chief Whip, repeated his accusation that the Tories cheated in Monday's vote on fishing by "double pairing" and securing an extra three votes. Senior Tory sources last night admitted that the party had been pairing one Tory MP with two MPs from different opposition parties in key votes for more than a year. "It was a good game while it lasted," one senior source said.

The dispute escalated when Mr Dewar also accused the Tories of lying after they claimed that Labour had itself broken "pairing" rules to help to defeat the Government in a vote on the anti-stalking Bill on Tuesday night.

Brian Mawhinney, the Tory Party chairman, said that 14 Labour MPs had broken their own pairing arrangements to vote for a minor amendment to the Protection Against Harassment Bill which gave the courts powers to force convicted stalkers to undergo counselling.

In a letter to Alastair Goodlad, the Tory Chief Whip, Mr Dewar said that only one Labour MP, John Maxton (Glasgow Cathcart), had broken his pairing agreement and that it had been an honest mistake. He said the 13 other MPs who had voted had no pairing agreement.

Several Tory MPs admitted that they had failed to vote because they mistakenly thought they had been paired. Many others had thought the vote would take place later in the evening.

Sir Archibald Hamilton, a former Tory whip, said he had reservations about what had happened at Monday's vote. "I think it was something that the Government might now regret, particularly in terms that we would have won that vote anyway," he told BBC Radio 4's *Today*.

Labour plan for human rights

Labour unveiled plans yesterday to make the European Convention on Human Rights part of British law so that people would not have to take the costly trek to Strasbourg to enforce their rights.

The Shadow Home Secretary, Jack Straw, said that British citizens, almost alone in Europe, could not enforce their rights in their own courts. Mr Straw told a conference at Westminster: "We want to bring our rights home. For almost 50 years we have had rights under the Convention but these are not protected by British courts."

Veal crates to go

More humane treatment of veal calves will be enforced throughout the European Union under an agreement reached in Brussels this week, Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister said. The narrow crates in which calves are widely reared on the Continent will be phased out and an improved diet introduced.

Harding's £190m

Matthew Harding, vice-chairman of Chelsea Football Club, left more than £190 million net. He instructed in his will that his estate should be split between his wife, Ruth, and her children, his girlfriend, Vicky Jaramillo, and her child and the shareholders of his insurance company Benfield Group.

Escape foiled

Prisoners who tried to chisel their way out of Perth jail by digging a hole in their cell wall with razor blades attached to toothbrushes were foiled when prison staff pulled down a poster covering the hole. Two men serving life had managed to dig 1½ft into the 5ft thick outer wall before they were discovered.

Mutant maize

Genetically modified American maize is to be sold throughout the European Union despite protests from environmental and consumer groups. The European Commission gave the go-ahead yesterday after studies by scientific committees concluded that there was no threat to animal or human health.

Hunt nears end

The father of a woman murdered eight years ago in Kenya may have to give up his hunt for the killer. John Ward is in Nairobi for talks with police. He expects the investigations to be completed in about four months, and said that if no new leads arose he would end his search for the murderer of Julie, 28.

American police tell neighbourhood if molester moves in

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

BRITISH ministers said yesterday that their plan requiring sex offenders to register their addresses with police may be extended by copying American practice. In many parts of the United States, the police then notify schools, child groups and even, according to the seriousness of the offence, all neighbours within a quarter of a mile of a child sex offender's home and workplace.

The stringent requirements, which have greatly hampered persistent sex offenders, are the result of "Megan's Law". The legislation was named after Megan Kanka, a seven-year-old New Jersey child who in 1994 was raped and strangled by a convicted sex offender who lived opposite her home. Her death created outrage across the US. People wanted to know why Megan's parents were not told they were living near such a man.

The requirements of Megan's Law, which has been adopted by 40 states, vary from state to state, but the aim is the same. It is not without flaws. Lieutenant Roger Kane, head of the sex crimes unit for the police department in Bergen County, New Jersey, said yesterday that Megan's Law has created a heavy workload for his staff of ten. Convicted offenders have to reregister every year at least, and the task of keeping residents appraised is a monumental task. "However," said Lieutenant Kane, "if it saves even just one child's life, it is worth the effort."

It has also led to instances of vigilante groups trying to run sex offenders out of towns. "This is something we have to watch out for," Lieutenant Kane said. Defenders of Megan's Law argue that despite the occasional outburst of medieval-style taunting in the streets, the law delivers what the majority of people want: protection from child abusers. On release from prison, any "compulsive, repetitive sex offender" must register with the local police station. There are three grades of alert, determined by local prosecutors. Grade 1, which applies to the least serious sex offences, such as "flashing", means that all police stations are advised of the offender's presence.

Under grade 2, for more serious criminals, all schools and children's groups, such as scout troops, are notified that an offender has moved into the area. Grade 3 is for the most serious types of sex offender, such as rapists and killers. Police visit every house and flat within a quarter of a mile in all directions from an offender's new residence, and sometimes also his workplace.

In country areas, the "net" area will be increased to perhaps half a mile or more. If residents are not at home, police will make return calls until they are confident that everyone has been told.

Offenders complain that they have served their time in prison and that the law prevents them getting on with their lives, but the response from parents and teachers is broadly favourable. "The law is so popular it is almost scary," said Lieutenant Kane.

Lists of offenders are kept on file at police precincts and are available for inspection. The law is having an impact on property values. The presence of a sex offender can drive down house prices in a neighbourhood, and estate agents have introduced contractual requirements which demand that tenants must declare if they have been told of any molesters living in the area.

Child sex pests face life on local police registers

Continued from page 1

offenders and longer supervision on their release from prison.

The Bill won support from Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, and childrens' charities, but probation officers warned that the register was not a solution to child sex abuse.

Under the Bill, which the Government hopes will be passed by parliament before the General Election, convicted child sex offenders and people guilty of rape would be required to register their names and addresses with the police and notify them when they move. Other offences covered by the Bill are intercourse with a girl under 13, intercourse with a girl aged between 13-16, incest by a man, buggery, indecency between men, indecent assault on a woman, indecent assault on a man and causing prostitution with a girl under 16. The registering requirement will be for a minimum of five years for an offender given a non-custodial sentence, but will be life for anyone given a jail term of 30 months or more. A person jailed for between six and 30 months will be on the register for 10 years, and seven years for an offender jailed for less than six months.

The registration period will be halved for anyone convicted of an offence while under the age of 18.

Offenders who have been cautioned for any of the listed sexual offences will also have to go on the register.

Under the Bill offenders must register with their local police within 14 days of moving into a district and failure will be a criminal offence punishable by a maximum fine of £1,000 and/or up to a month in jail.

Offenders will be unable to appeal against being on the register, unless they win an appeal against their conviction.

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Acid killer gets life after boasting of the perfect murder

By Michael Horsnell

A CONVICTED fraudster who claimed to have committed the perfect murder when he dissolved his wife's body in acid was jailed for life yesterday. Russell Causley had boasted that his achievement was "better than an Agatha Christie murder".

Veronica Packman, known as Carol, disappeared in 1985 at the age of 40 after her husband decided to move his young mistress into the family home in Bournemouth and to take her name. Winchester Crown Court was told that Causley, 53, said his wife had run off with another man and lied to friends about her whereabouts. He had had his lover, Patricia Causley, forge her signature to make it look as though she were still alive.

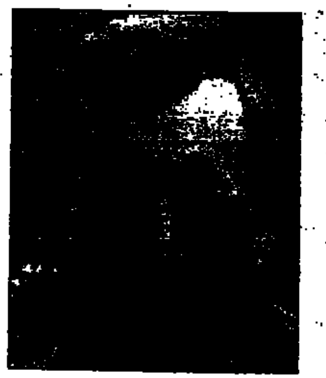
He was given away by conversations with other prisoners after he was jailed last year for an £800,000 insurance fraud in which he faked his own drowning at sea.

The jury found Causley guilty of murder after three hours' deliberation. Police said later that they would continue their investigations in an attempt to locate Mrs Packman's remains.

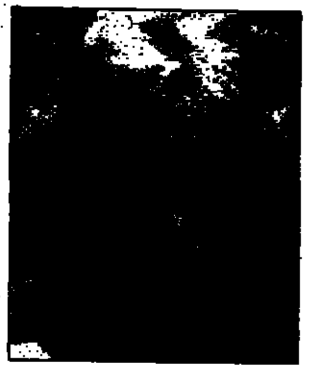
The couple's daughter, Samantha, 28, who is married with a son aged seven, gave evidence against Causley. She said: "His life is over now. I feel justice has finally been done but it's been an absolute nightmare reliving it after all these years. Words cannot describe how I feel about my father — hate is not enough. For years I had prayed Mum was still alive but there were just too many things that didn't add up."

She added: "Now the question I would like answered is what did he do with her body. Finding her has always been the priority. Now I want the chance to give her a decent burial and to pay my last respects after all these years."

It was while in Brixton prison that Causley confessed to murder to a fellow inmate and asked whether it were possible to be convicted of murder in the absence of a body. He was transferred to Ford open prison where he met Andrew Murphy, another inmate, and said: "She is a missing person and she's going to stay that way. I killed her before she was reported missing and covered my tracks well."



Russell Causley: faked his own death for cash



Veronica Packman: her remains were not found

He said his favourite day was June 21 when "I got rid of that bitch. I did it better than an Agatha Christie murder. I put her away peacefully with a shot of gas and put a plastic bag over her head. I used acid to get rid of the body. It will never be found."

Causley met Mrs Packman in Reading and they married in September 1965. They moved to Dorset, where Samantha was born in 1968. They travelled the world on business contracts before moving back to Britain in 1982.

Causley then met Patricia Causley, then 25, and employed her after he opened an insurance business in Bournemouth in 1984. A few months later she sold her flat and moved into the family home at his invitation.

Mrs Packman disappeared in June 1985 while her husband and teenage daughter were on a day-trip to London. Her wedding ring was found on a note, purportedly by her, in the kitchen. It said she could take no more. Upstairs, her favourite ballgown was discovered slashed to pieces.

Few of her personal effects were missing, however, and she had left her Rolex watch and jewellery, together with her extensive wardrobe and all the family suitcases. Causley reported his wife missing to police and attempts were made to find her.

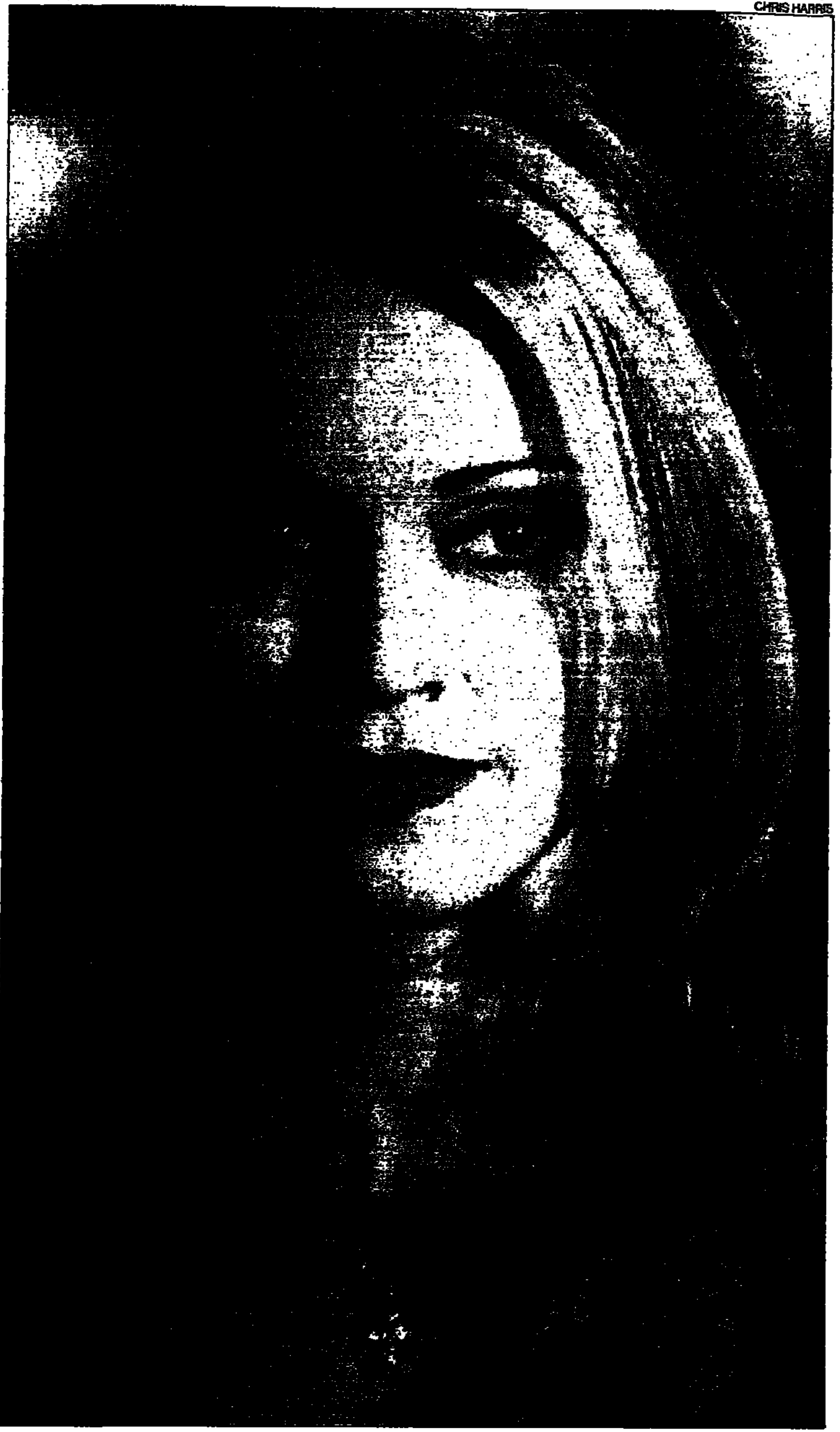
Detective Chief Inspector Tony Nott, who led the murder inquiry, said her bank account had not been touched, she had not filed for divorce or a financial share of the marriage from the husband who treated her so badly, and had made no attempt to contact her daughter.

When in 1993 a detective from Guernsey told Dorset police that he was investigating Causley's own "disappearance" in the insurance swindle, detectives began to examine the case further.

They found that the family home had been sold with Mrs Packman's forged signature; she had not registered with a doctor or received dental care; there were no tax and insurance records since 1985; the passport of the well-travelled career woman had not been renewed since its expiry in 1992; and Patricia Causley had worked in Canada using the missing woman's name. Causley told friends she had taken £2,000 and gone abroad with a "rich German in a red Porsche".

Causley was jailed for two years for the insurance swindle. He served 12 months and was re-arrested on his release. Patricia Causley, 37, was given a 12-month suspended sentence. She had claimed Causley had disappeared overboard from a yacht chartered to sail to Guernsey. Causley was caught out because he could not resist visiting her.

CHRIS HARRIS



Madonna yesterday: she had pleaded for the role of Evita, created by the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber and directed in the film by Alan Parker, right

Cry for me if I don't win an Oscar ...

By Dalya Alberge
Arts Correspondent

MADONNA said yesterday that she expected to be nominated for an Oscar for her performance in *Evita*. She said that she had written an impassioned letter to the film's director, Alan Parker, setting out why she thought herself ideal for the role of Eva Perón, and told how it had taken 20 meetings with him before he became convinced.

Madonna said at the launch of the musical film in London that she identified with Perón "on many levels", drawing parallels between herself and the former dictator's wife who rose from poverty to become one of the most powerful women in the world. "She came from a small town, from nothing essentially, and moved to the big city and had the courage to make something incredible with her life ... people were either incredibly for her or against her."

The actress and singer, wearing a low-cut 1940s-style dress and platform sandals, said that, until the last moment, "I still wasn't sure I had the movie." Parker said: "I frustrated her, because I kept saying, 'Oh, I don't know ...'"

Madonna, who co-stars with the British actor Jonathan Pryce as Juan Perón, had pleaded in her letter to Parker that the film would be a "chance for me as a singer and actress to do things I'd never done before". She studied for three months with a vocal coach in New York "to learn how to sing all over again". Asked at the press conference whether she thought she would be selected for an Oscar and whether that was important to her, she replied: "Yes and yes."

Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, the composer, was asked about his reported rift with Sir Tim Rice, the lyricist, who did not attend the premiere in Los Angeles and is expected to be absent from the premiere in London tomorrow. Sir Andrew said: "I don't know where he is today. I haven't been that involved in the film. I just feel it's important to be here to show my endorsement of all the incredible hard work that has gone on, and I am sorry he's not."

Review, page 29

150 cars fail to stop for roadside rape victim

By Adam Fresco

A CIVIL servant was beaten to the ground beside a busy road at rush hour before being dragged into bushes and raped, police said yesterday.

Police believe that at least 150 motorists saw the 36-year-old woman being repeatedly punched as they stopped at a mini-roundabout, but they failed to help her. She has told police that she remembers looking up at people in their cars and seeing them look at her but doing nothing to help her.

The woman was walking to her home in Chislehurst, Kent, after getting off the 6.08pm train from Charing Cross. She was attacked at about 7pm. To stop her screaming the attacker pushed a metal bar into her mouth.

When the attack was over the woman waited until the rapist had left and returned to the road and flagged down a car. Police want to trace the woman who finally stopped for the victim. She gave her name as Maureen and took the victim to Chislehurst police station.

The man is described as white, aged between 28 and 33, with short, curly ginger or light brown hair. He was about 5ft 7in, slightly built, with a long, thin, clean-shaven face. He had thin lips and wore dark clothing. Police believe that he would have looked muddy and dishevelled after the attack.

Muslim teacher breaks up school carol concert

By David Charter, Education Correspondent

A SCHOOL carol performance broke up in chaos as the choir sang *Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas* when a teacher started berating Muslim pupils for taking part.

Pupils said Israr Khan, a maths teacher at Washwood Heath School, Birmingham, stood up and shouted "Who is your God?" at the choristers and the audience of pupils.

Some of those watching were then said to have started clapping and shouting "Allah". About a third of the choir of 120 were Asian pupils. The school said yesterday that it would investigate the incident, but many parents called for a public apology from the teacher.

Oxy Malik, an 18-year-old pupil, said: "The concert was going fine and then the teacher just stood up and shouted over the kids singing. He said 'Excuse me, there are Muslim boys and girls in this choir who are saying that Jesus is their God by taking part. This is totally wrong.'"

Mr Malik said that Mr Khan then shouted at the 12 and 13-year-old pupils watching. "Everybody started clapping and shouting Allah. All of the white girls just walked out as well as some of the Asian girls — they looked really upset. I disagree with what he said. Islam teaches you to respect all religions and we also see Jesus as a prophet." One 17-year-old girl singer, who did not want to be named, said: "It was really awful. The audience was booing and shouting at us. I was in tears — and there were quite a number of others who were as well. We had put so much work into it and this has ruined it".

Derek Rouse, whose 15-year-old daughter, Cassie, was in the choir, said: "If it was a child who had come out and said something like this they would have been expelled. I'm now keeping Cassie away from school until we get a public apology from Mr Khan. If he felt so strongly about it he should have spoken to the headmaster and not in front of the kids."

His wife, Sally, added: "He had a nerve standing up and saying something like this. It shows an utter disregard for other religions and is hypocritical of him. Cassie doesn't want to go back to school until he has apologised."

The incident was at a preview for first and second-year pupils on Monday. The show for parents was expected to take place last night.

Mr Khan refused to comment about the incident. Jim Collins, the head teacher, said: "Following an interruption at a rehearsal at the school, an incident occurred involving a member of staff. This is now subject to an internal investigation at the school."

Fresh anguish for jailed mother

By Tim Jones and
Paul Wilkinson

A YOUNG mother of three will know tomorrow whether she must spend Christmas in jail for attacking her husband's lover with her stiletto heels.

Lawyers will make an application to the Appeal Court for bail pending an appeal by Debbie Smith against a nine-month sentence for assault and affray, imposed last Friday at Minshull Crown Court in Manchester.

Yesterday Smith, 29, from Stalybridge, who has been held in the hospital wing of Risley remand centre near Warrington since her sentence, faced fresh distress when she learnt that two of her children had been taken by their estranged father.

Relatives had delayed for 24 hours telling her that her former husband Jeffrey, 31, had removed their sons Jeff, 9, and Jonathan, 7, from school. Her boys and their sister Emma, 11, were being looked after by their grandmother.

Smith's lawyers had expected a community-based sentence, but on Friday Mrs Smith, who had no previous convictions, was jailed by Judge Peter Lakin. Smith was taken from the dock screaming: "My babies, my babies".

She had admitted assaulting her former best friend, Francine French, after discovering her affair with her husband.

School bullies graduate to the board

By Jeremy Laurance
Health Correspondent

SCHOOL bullies could grow up to become chairmen of major companies because both require qualities necessary for tough management, a psychologist said yesterday.

The traditional picture of the bully as a stupid brute lacking social skills is a dangerous myth. In order to exert their power, bullies require insight into the way their victims' minds work and the capacity to manipulate social situations.

A study of 72 children aged seven to ten at three south London schools showed that those identified as ring-leader bullies had a superior understanding of other people's thoughts but not their feelings. The children were given 11 stories and their capacity to read others' minds and emotions was assessed.

Jon Sutton, a researcher at Goldsmiths' College, London, said: "It is this gap between their social and emotional understanding that makes ring leaders such cold and effective bullies."

The results, presented to the British Psychological Society's conference in London yesterday, suggest that bullies are not socially inept. Dr Sutton said: "In some areas they are superior. This kind of skilled manipulator should do well. They could make good managers."

However, the ruthlessness necessary in successful management could also lead people into crime. Dr Sutton said that the bullies' inability to read other people's emotions was also seen in psychopaths, who are distinguished by their capacity for "cold cognition".

He said anti-bullying measures should include all those who hang around the ring leaders. Most children were against bullying, yet 85 per cent of incidents occur with other children present. Dr Sutton suggested the silent minority should be helped to break the cycle.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Labour plan for human rights

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Fayed pledges cash support for new anti-abortion party

By Russell Jenkins

MOHAMED AL FAYED has promised financial backing for a new anti-abortion party which hopes to field at least 50 candidates at the general election.

The Egyptian-born multimillionaire believes that the Conservatives and Labour have been "mealy-mouthed" about abortion and that the subject should be at the centre of British political debate.

Mr Fayed, a father of four, believes strongly that children are a gift from God and that they should be nurtured and nourished, his spokesman said yesterday.

The decision to finance the Pro-Life Alliance Party is disclosed in today's edition of *New Statesman*. The alliance will have candidates in the constituencies of "pro-choice" MPs, including Virginia Bottomley, Sir Nicholas Lyell, Marjorie Mowlam and Clare Short. It hopes to field sufficient candidates to qualify for a party political broadcast, in which it would show a late-term abortion.

The alliance, formed by members of the Quintavalle family of Chelsea, London, and the anti-abortion group Life, aims to make abortion as unavoidable an issue for politicians as it was in the recent US presidential elections.

Mr Fayed's spokesman told *New Statesman*: "He does not just talk about family values, like some Conservative MPs. He is doing something towards these ends and reintroducing a sense of morality and purpose. Mr Fayed has undertaken to provide substantial sums of money to help the party with their election expenses because he believes that what they are doing is in the long-term interests of everyone in this country."

The spokesman was anxious to dismiss any suggestion that Mr Fayed hoped to emulate Sir James Goldsmith, who set up the Referendum Party to campaign for a referendum on Britain's continued adherence to the Maastricht treaty. "These are not overtly political questions. He sees it in terms of a moral crusade," the spokesman said.

New Statesman said that the Harrods chairman had decided to underwrite the deposits of alliance party candidates to the tune of £25,000, but Mr Fayed's aides refused to confirm the figure.

Mr Fayed has made donations, said to total £180,000 over three years, to *Christian Democrat*, a small-circulation newspaper which is the mouthpiece for the Movement for Christian Democracy. The non-denominational, cross-party group was launched in 1990 by David Alton, the Liberal Democrat MP. *The Times* reported in May that the Liberal Democrats had rejected Mr Fayed's offer of a substantial donation to help them to fight the next general election.

Bruno Quintavalle, 25, founder of the pro-life party, said that a number of people had offered financial backing. He told *New Statesman:* "We don't yet have a bank account open but we have money pledged. I cannot comment on individual donors. We would like to be totally open and would prefer that donors are prepared to be openly associated with the pro- life movement. We have not sought money from abroad."

Last month Mr Fayed won the latest round of his legal battle to become a British citizen. Judges in the appeal court ruled by a 2-1 majority that he and his younger brother, Ali, were treated unfairly when their citizenship applications were refused without reasons being given by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary.

Last August Mr Fayed visited Zoe's Place, a baby hospice at Alderhey Hospital, Merseyside. "He was very impressed by the work that was being done," his spokesman said. "He has provided the finance to increase the scope of their work."

Fayed: believes that babies are gift from God

MALCOLM GANDERTON

Doris Jourd, believed by her family to have been the world's first Girl Guide, raises a glass for her birthday

Pioneer of the Girl Guides turns 100

By Robin Young

A WOMAN believed by her family and friends to have been the world's first Girl Guide is 100 today. Doris Best joined her local Boy Scout troop in Kent and became founder member of a distinct troop of Girl Scouts two years before the Girl Guides were officially launched.

As a young girl in the early years of the century she kept pestering her mother to let her join the Boy Scouts. Eventually Alice Best let her daughter tag along and she equipped herself with a brown shirt and hat to follow the boys along the street, carrying a broomstick.

In 1908, when she was 12, she was accepted as an affiliate member of the troop. Within a month 60 girls had joined her and in 1909 she formed the first Girl Scouts troop in Gillingham.

In 1910 Lady Baden-Powell officially launched the Girl Guides. Lord Baden-Powell presented Alice Best with the first Girl Scouts captain's certificate, and from then her Gillingham troop adhered to the Girl Guides.

Her daughter, now Mrs Jourd, went on to give more than 60 years' service to the Guides, serving as captain of the 1st Whitstable Guides, in Kent, for 30 years before retiring at 74, saying she did not want to stay on as "an old dodderer". She now lives in a nursing home in Whitstable, close to her three children and six grandchildren, who have all been involved in the Guiding movement.

Her daughter Christine Stanley-Hughes, 63, said yesterday: "Guiding was one of the dearest things in her life. She was seen as rather a racy pioneer in her day."

The Guides Association said: "It is difficult to be sure who the first Girl Guide was. We tend to give the credit to Lady Baden-Powell, but a lot of girls were joining the Boy Scouts in 1908 and 1909.

"Many girls were present at the great Crystal Palace rally held by the Scouts in 1909, the year before the Guides were established. Mrs Jourd was certainly one of the first Girl Guides, and she might well have been the very first."

Doris Jourd in the Boy Scouts in 1908, aged 12

Callaghan tells Blair to retain union link

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

LORD Callaghan of Cardiff, the former Prime Minister, has issued a clear warning to Tony Blair not to break the Labour Party's links with the trade unions.

In an interview today Lord Callaghan also suggests that party members would defeat any attempt to try to end the relationship.

The Labour leadership has indicated that it is prepared to reduce significantly the traditional link between the trade unions and the party. One option being floated is to break the link altogether, possibly via a membership ballot, if the unions instigate a spate of strikes after the election of a Labour government.

In an interview with *New Statesman*, Lord Callaghan, 84, emphasises that the unions are part of Labour's heritage and should not be abandoned. "I would be opposed to breaking the relationship with the trade unions and the party. And I suspect most party members would agree," he says.

"It is part of our heritage and it is instinctive in the party and the movement that we should keep the link. Anyone who doesn't believe that doesn't understand our history or the natural foundation of our party."

Lord Callaghan, who is the only living Labour Prime Minister, has sharp words for new members who are not abreast with the party's history: "I do hope new party members will read the history and learn from the background of the party before they come to any conclusions too quickly."

New guidelines on gagging orders cut ministers' powers

By Frances Gibb
Legal Correspondent

MINISTERS' powers to withhold sensitive documents under "gagging orders" have been curtailed in guidelines announced by the Lord Chancellor and the Attorney-General yesterday.

The advice, drawn up after Sir Richard Scott's inquiry into the sale of arms to Iraq, says documents must be disclosed unless it would cause "real damage or harm to the public interest". Ministers will have to spell out why they think disclosure would harm the public interest, but the courts will have the final say and will favour disclosure.

The Cabinet's two legal chiefs issued a joint statement to the House of Lords and Commons, saying: "The Government is committed to the principle that there should be the maximum disclosure consistent with protecting essential public interests." The advice takes on board the main thrust of Sir Richard's proposals after the arms-to-Iraq inquiry and is also in line with the view of Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the Lord Chief Justice, that public interest immunity should be claimed only "for the bare minimum of documents for which the claim of serious harm can be seen to be clearly justified".

Ministers will no longer be able to claim "public interest immunity" or a gagging order for whole classes of documents. Instead, ministers will "focus on the damage that disclosure will cause".

Sir Richard, now Vice-Chancellor of the Supreme Court, welcomed the advice and said it would lead to far fewer claims to withhold documents. "This is exactly what I wanted. There will be only claims based on the content of documents, and where disclosure could cause serious harm." Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, said that it was impossible to describe "such damage exhaustively", adding: "It may relate to the safety of an individual, such as an informant, to a regulatory process; or it may be damage to international relations caused by the disclosure of confidential diplomatic communications."

But normally the harm would in the form of "direct and immediate harm to, for example, the nation's economic interests or our relations with a foreign state; in some cases it may be indirect or longer term damage, to which the disclosure of the material would contribute".

As far as possible, where ministers issued the certificates, they would have to identify why disclosure of the information would cause real damage and the certificates spell out "in greater detail than before both what the document is and what damage its disclosure would be likely to do".

CORRECTIONS

A report in early editions (December 13) stated that Ivor Roberts, the British Ambassador in Belgrade, figured in a cartoon in a local paper with President Milosevic of Serbia. He did not, and we apologise for the mistake.

☐ A photograph which appeared yesterday, captioned as being of Estée Lauder, was not in fact of Ms Lauder. We apologise for the error.

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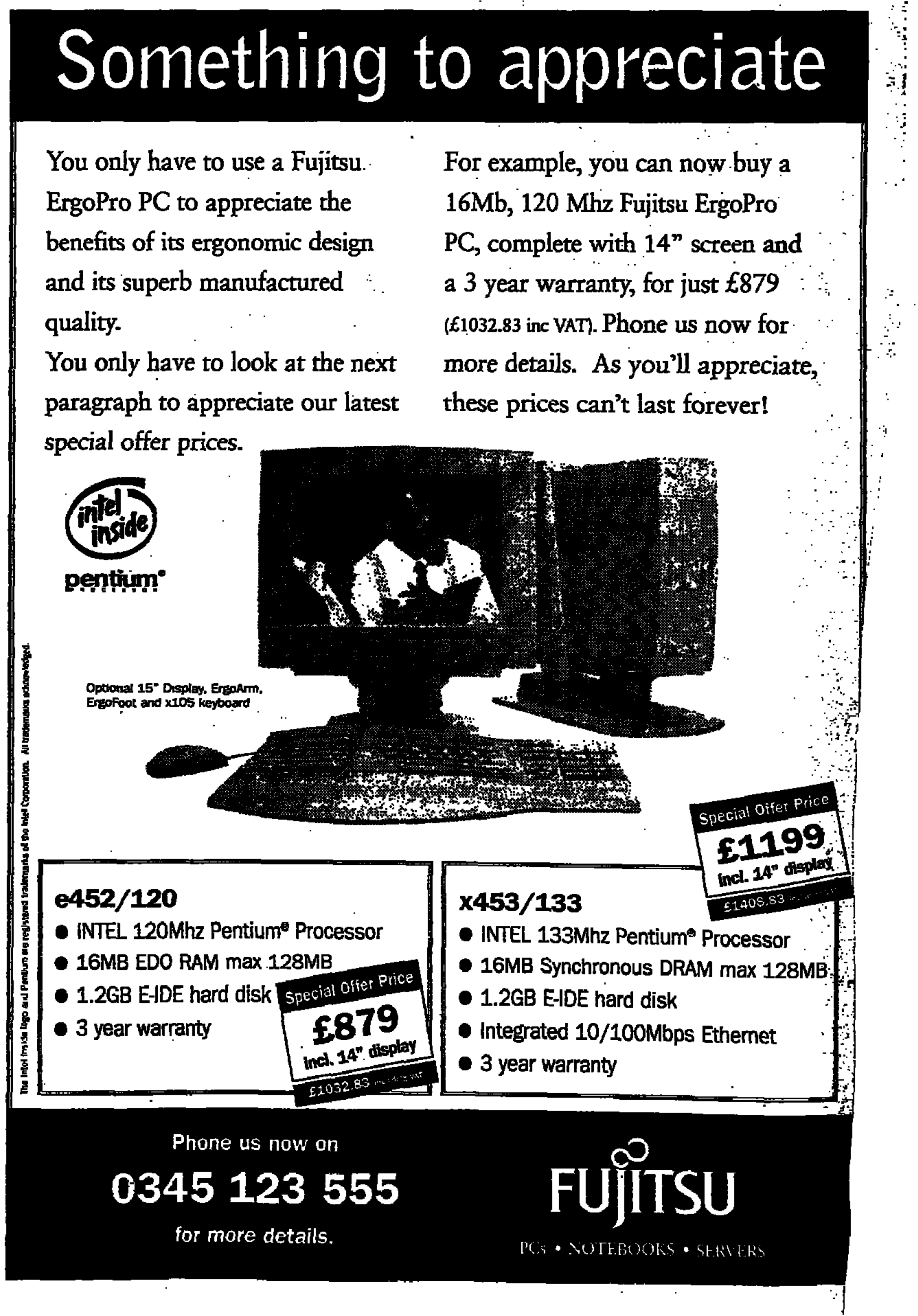

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Girls' secret life of crime

By Jeremy Laurance
Health Correspondent

ADOLESCENT girls are committing far more crime than police records show, researchers have found. Shoplifting is as common among girls as boys in the early teens, and as many as one third of all offences are committed by women, according to surveys based on individuals' own reports.

However, statistics based on police records show that male involvement in crime exceeds that of females at every age and for all crime, by up to 33 times in the case of burglary committed by those aged over 20.

Ann Hagell of the Policy Studies Institute in London, who presented the findings to the British Psychological Society's conference in London yesterday, said that more girls than boys were being let off with a caution and the remainder were treated more leniently by the courts. Girls were more likely to get absolute or conditional discharges for a first offence than boys, and even persistent offenders were less likely to be sent to prison.

Girls were often treated more leniently than boys because offending by girls was still relatively rare, Dr Hagell said, and it was extremely rare for them to be involved in violence or serious crime.

Boys offended more than girls because of early family influences, parental control and the friends with whom they became involved. Boys tended to cope less well with family difficulties and were especially sensitive to their mother's stress. "If their mothers are having a bad time boys tend to act up more," Dr Hagell told the conference.

Coroner's tribute after 56 years

Wartime airman hailed above 'false heroes' of today

By A Staff Reporter

A CORONER paid tribute to a Battle of Britain fighter pilot yesterday and contrasted him with highly paid footballers and other "false heroes" of the 1990s.

An inquest was held 56 years after the death of Sergeant Denis Noble because his remains were unearthed in the wreckage of his Hurricane only last month. In August 1940 the 20-year-old pilot was machinegunned in a dogfight with Messerschmitts and crashed his aircraft near Hove, in West Sussex.

Yesterday Dr Donald Gooding hailed the airman as one of "The Few" described by Churchill and said: "These days we are regaled by talk of heroes and really I don't think people know what they are talking about.

"These heroes get large sums of money for kicking soggy lumps of leather about. These are just one type of what today are called heroes. They are not heroes. Denis Noble was a hero."

At the inquest in Brighton, an elderly clergyman described how he watched the dogfight as a 13-year-old boy. "I was at home because it was the school holidays," the Rev Anthony Martlew said. "I heard a dogfight going on and I went into the garden to watch it. There were many aircraft involved, possibly more than a hundred. The noise was enormous with the sound of engines and cannon fire.

"I saw one plane falling straight downwards to the earth. It fell like an arrow. After I had my lunch I cycled down to the crash site. I stood behind the barrier and watched what happened.

"There was a large crater which had filled with water because the plane had hit a water main. I assumed the body of the airman had been removed."

It was thought that the pilot's remains had been buried in his home town of Retford, Nottinghamshire, but his torso was found in the cockpit of the Hurricane when it was dug up by a team of aviation archaeologists led by the historian Keith Arnold.

Noble: he was killed in dogfight over Sussex

David Melcher, a pathologist who examinied the airman's remains, said all that was recovered was a partial skeleton, an RAF button and a fragment of clothing. "Common sense suggests the whole of the body could not have been removed. At that time, if seven pounds by weight could be removed then a proper funeral could be held. This is what I believe happened with Sergeant Noble."

War records showed that Sergeant Noble had been identified at the time by a ring that had his initials inscribed on it. He was a member of 43 Squadron, based at Tangmere, near Chichester. Before his death he had made his first "kill", shooting down a German bomber near the Sussex coast.

A statement from his squadron leader, "Tubby" Badger, who later died of injuries sustained in the same skirmish, was read to the court. It said that he had led Green Section of the squadron in the dogfight and described what happened.

"We sighted an enemy plane and rolled over hard to engage it. Sergeant Noble, who was Green Two, fell away and another plane came in to fill his place. He did not rejoin us and crashed. The German plane may have got a short burst in at Sergeant Noble's plane, but it is not possible to say the primary cause of the crash."

A telegram sent to squadron headquarters on the day of the crash said: "Sgt Noble RAF — killed — not known — crashed in flames — next of kin not informed."

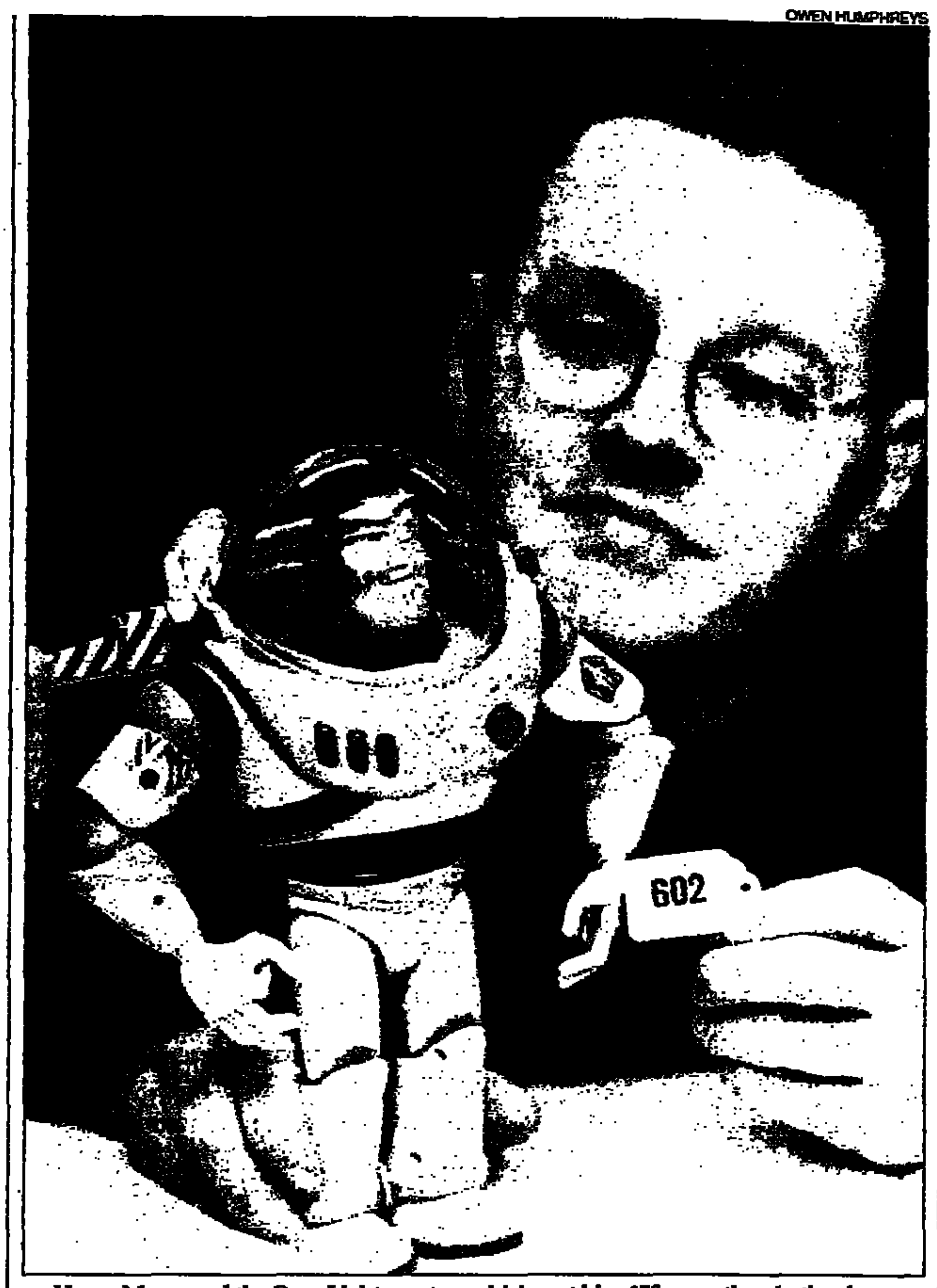
Dr Gooding said: "During the early 1940s this country was really in trouble. We were being assaulted by land, sea and air and the assault by air became known as the Battle of Britain.

"This battle was fought by very young men and boys who were in their teens or early twenties. Shortly afterwards Winston Churchill, who made many great speeches, made a speech in which he mentioned The Few.

"Denis Noble was one of The Few. It is as a tribute to him and his colleagues that we hold this inquest. It seems quite possible that he died as a result of a machinegun attack by a German fighter."

Dr Gooding recorded a verdict that, while on active service, Sergeant Noble had died as a result of enemy action.

OWEN HUMPHREYS



Harry Meers and the *Buzz Lightyear* toy, which cost him £75 more than in the shops

Rare toys give fathers a Buzz

EVERY parent will be familiar with the desperation that sets in when, after hunting high and low for their child's "must have" Christmas present, there is none to be found. Not every parent, however, will be willing to pay four times its value or to arrange a transatlantic swap.

Harry Meers and Craig Jones were. Mr Meers, a car worker from Newcastle upon Tyne, went to a sale and parted with £94.10 — £80 plus commission and VAT — for a Buzz Lightyear toy that retails at £18.99. His daughter, Amber Elizabeth, 13, had wanted only the video of the film *Toy Story*, in which Buzz features, for Christmas. But Mr Meers, 33, decided "to make a determined effort to get her this toy as an extra".

Buzz and his sidekick Woody, who sold for £70, had been bought in March for £26.95 and £24.95 by a Durham businessman with a keen eye on Christmas ahead.

Mr Jones's quest cost him considerably more: he spent more than £400 on advertisements, telephone calls and postage for a Buzz Lightyear toy for his son, Chris, 6. Eventually a swap was arranged with Janet Winterle, of Milwaukee, who wanted a *Sesame Street* toy, called Tickle-Me Elmo, for her son Mike, 11. Mr Jones, 30, from Ely, Cardiff, said he could not wait for Christmas morning. "We've told Chris that Father Christmas has run out of Buzz Lightyears."

BA man wins 'dirty tricks' damages

By Kathryn Knight

A FORMER public relations consultant for British Airways won £20,000 damages yesterday over claims in a book that he was a professional "pedlar of lies" who helped to instigate a smear campaign against Virgin Atlantic.

Brian Basham, 52, had sued the author Martyn Gregory and the publishers Little, Brown and Co over allegations in *Dirty Tricks: British Airways' Secret War Against Virgin Atlantic* that he had distributed damaging and false information about Virgin and its founder, Richard Branson.

The High Court was told that Mr Basham worked as a consultant to BA from 1985 to 1993, when Virgin claims that BA waged a "dirty tricks" propaganda war against it. Mr Basham co-operated fully with Mr Gregory's book but said he was shocked when a "one-sided, partial and embroidered account" emerged.

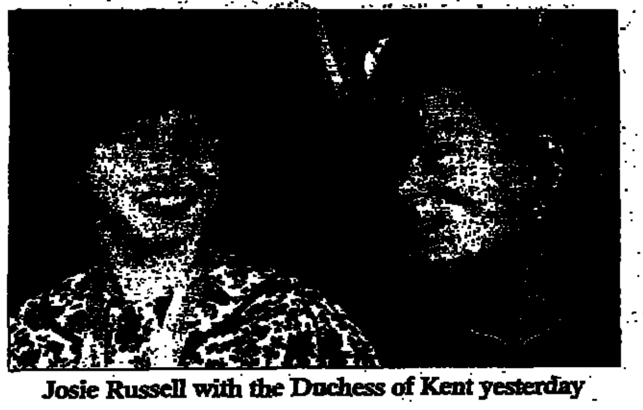
Mr Basham denied "trashing" Virgin and claimed he spent a lot of time trying to stop BA's management from implementing "lots of wild ideas about rubbishing and denigrating" the airline.

Patrick Milmo, QC, for Mr Basham, said he had been used as a scapegoat by British Airways after its capitulation in 1993 in libel proceedings brought by Mr Branson. Mr Milmo said that, while the issue was not whether British Airwyas had launched a dirty tricks campaign, "certainly Mr Basham believes there was such a campaign".

Little, Brown and Co were ordered not to distribute further copies of the book, just out in paperback. The firm faces a legal bill estimated at £400,000 and plans to appeal.

Outside court, Mr Basham said: "In 1993 Richard Branson and BA combined to make a statement in open court blaming me for being part of a dirty tricks campaign. Since then I have been fighting to clear my name and today I have succeeded."

Duchess honours courage of child who survived hammer attack


Josie Russell with the Duchess of Kent yesterday

By Emma Wilkins

JOSIE RUSSELL, the nine-year-old girl who witnessed the murder of her mother and sister, was among children honoured by the Duchess of Kent at a special service in Westminster Abbey yesterday.

The girl suffered serious head injuries in the hammer attack in July and is having to learn to speak again. Despite this, and the pain of losing her mother, Lin, 45, and sister Megan, 6, she has helped police to build up a picture of the killer.

PC Pauline Smith, who has been her constant companion since the attack near the family home in Kent, nominated her for one of eight Children of Courage awards sponsored by *Woman's Own* magazine.

The girl suffers panic attacks if approached by strangers, but tries to be cheerful and is a great comfort to her father, Shaun Russell, a lecturer. "If she sees me getting downhearted she comes up to me and pushes the corners of my mouth up to make me smile," Dr Russell said.

"She has been like a rock to me. She has been incredibly firm for a girl who has quite a little, timid character. Christmas will be a very difficult time, but we will try to keep too many upsetting memories from our minds."

PC Smith said: "She has a very strong character. The courage she has displayed has been tremendous. I am very proud of her."

The Duchess, who recently disclosed that she has chronic fatigue syndrome, showed no sign of tiredness as she played with the children during the 23rd annual awards. She struck up an instant rapport with Kimberley Territt, 2, from Camberley, Surrey. In January Kimberley was in tears because of pain in her head. A brain tumour was diagnosed and she was left blind after surgery to remove it. Her mother, Margaret, said: "I'm very proud of her and it was easy to see that she won the Duchess's heart straight away."

Radha Patel, 8, from Portsmouth, went to her father's aid when two men broke into his shop. She wrestled with one of them as he threatened her father with a knife, giving him time to push a panic button. "I wasn't scared and I would do exactly the same again. I just wanted to save my dad," she said. "I grabbed the man's hair and then, wham, I punched him in the face. Dad pushed the button and they ran off."

The other winners were Amy Melrose, 13, from Sheffield, who fell from a tree on to railings but managed to joke with firefighters as they freed her; Christopher Foster, 7, from Bishops Stortford, who has bone cancer; Gillian Cash, 8, from Paisley, who was born with a congenital heart condition; Ashley Read, 14, from Cobham, Surrey, who fell on to a bonfire and suffered 70 per cent burns; and Joe Davitt, 12, from York, who took the controls of a light aircraft while his father radioed for help after their landing gear collapsed. The awards were attended by the pop singer Gary Barlow and the footballer Ian Wright.

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'We don't argue the rights and wrongs of the law, but we must deal with its consequences'

Red Cross to feed London's starving asylum seekers

By Ian Murray, community correspondent

THE Red Cross is to distribute food parcels in Britain for the first time in nearly 50 years. It says new government immigration controls have reduced refugees to the poverty levels of famine-stricken Third World countries.

The international organisation has added three refugee day centres in London to its long Christmas list. Half the Red Cross aid budget is spent in Africa, with Afghanistan, Georgia and Colombia among other big beneficiaries. "The main criterion for aid is hunger," a spokesman for the International Red Cross in Geneva said. "If someone is hungry then it is our mission to feed them."

From tomorrow until January 2,200 parcels a day will be delivered for distribution among asylum seekers who are regular visitors to centres in Vauxhall, Camden and Newham. Each package is meant to last for two days. The £10,000 cost will come from the discretionary fund of the British Red Cross, which its director-general, Mike Whitlam, can spend where he considers there is a need.

Mr Whitlam said: "We do not argue the rights and wrongs of the law, but as a humanitarian organisation we have to deal with its consequences. We have focused on the most vulnerable group, who are very depressed and just do not know where their next meal is coming from. They would be in desperate straits without this help because at this time of year many of the places they can go to beg for help are closed."

In February the Government withdrew benefits from asylum seekers who did not make an application immediately on arrival. That was ruled illegal by the High Court in June and benefits were reinstated, only to be withdrawn again when the Asylum and Immigration Act was passed on July 24.

By September at least 10,000 people had lost their benefit entitlement and the Refugee Council began dealing with an increasing flow. The situation changed again in October, when the High Court ruled that local authorities had a duty under the 1948 National Assistance Act to provide shelter, warmth and food.

A government appeal against that decision will be heard on January 13-14. Until then local authorities are obliged to provide minimal help, which they estimate is costing them about £2 million a week.

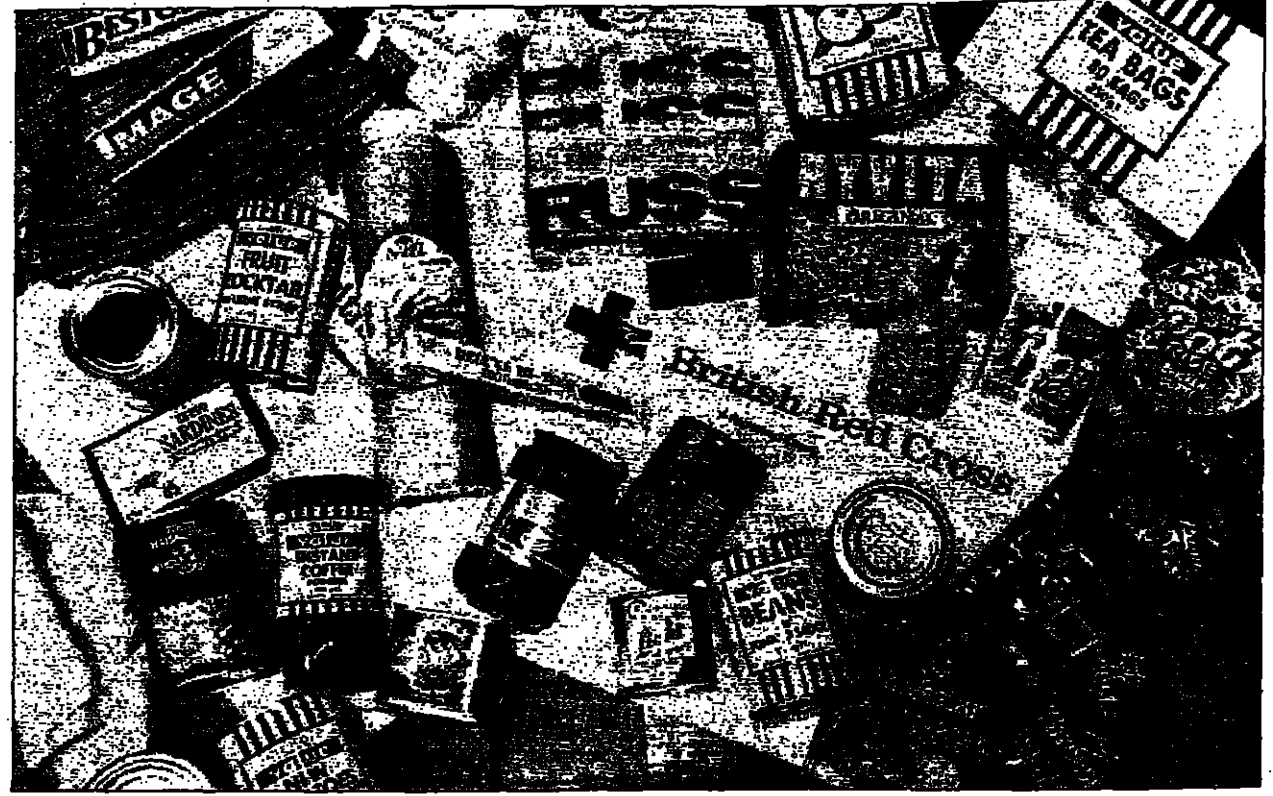
Most refugees are in London, where there are currently 1,900 single adults, 1,500 families and 550 children on their own. Mark Bangwyn, social policy officer of the Association of London Government, said: "Because they have no right to local authority accommodation we have to house them in expensive bed-and-breakfast places, where we have to pay prices which compete with those paid by tourists. In most cases these people wander the streets all day with no money. They are sometimes given lists of soup kitchens, but that is all."

Nick Hardwick, chief executive of the Refugee Council, said: "The number of people attending our day centres has doubled to 130 in two months and many walk miles for a meal with us. Many are professional people. It just cannot be the answer to make it impossible for people to eat."

Numbers of refugees seeking asylum in Britain have fallen from 4,700 a month a year ago to 1,900 now. Only 6 per cent of those applying are granted refugee status.

Leading article, page 17

SIMON WALKER



From toothpaste to sardines: the contents of parcels to be distributed at three refugee day centres in London

Saved – by eggs and legs from home

By Alan Hamilton

PROBABLY the oddest Red Cross parcel dispatched from Britain was dropped from a Blenheim bomber over France on August 19, 1941. Addressed to Wing Commander D.R.S. Bader, the bulky package contained a replacement pair of artificial legs.

The flying ace had left one tin leg trapped in the cockpit of his damaged Spitfire and had bent the other as he baled out. His German captors, who regarded their adversary with the highest admiration, allowed the bomber safe passage to drop the replacement limbs, allowing their prisoner some mobility in his new home at Colditz.

For thousands of ordinary prisoners of war, the Red Cross parcel was a lifeline to survival. By May 1945 more than 20 million parcels, packed at 17 centres throughout Britain, had been shipped by the British Red Cross and the Order of St John to neutral Lisbon for distribution to British and Commonwealth PoWs.

The contents were intended to provide a vital dietary supplement to inadequate prison food. There would usually be a quarter pound of Maypole tea, a tin of Rowntree's cocoa, a tin of condensed milk and a bar of soap. Other regular items were cans of Crosse and Blackwell's Scotch herrings, tinned meat roll, cheese, dried eggs, jam, margarine, vegetables, biscuits, a bar of chocolate and a tin of 50 cigarettes.

Even the home-dwelling British enjoyed the benefit of food parcels in the austerity of the immediate postwar years. Canadian families, moved by the severe rationing in the mother country, donated many thousands of food parcels in 1948. In the previous year, when severe flooding affected 45,000 British homes and 130,000 people, the Red Cross distributed more than 26,000 cases of food and milk.

Cleric who attacked Thought for Day moves on

By Ruth Gledhill
religion correspondent

A CLERGYMAN who publicly attacked a BBC *Thought for the Day* broadcast by a vicar's wife is to leave his job as the Church of England's communications director.

The Rev Eric Shegog said: "I want to emphasise that discussions about my move began long before the *Thought for the Day* broadcast. All clergy at Church House work on five-year contracts which can be extended for a maximum of two years. I started in 1990, always knowing I would have to go in 1997."

Mr Shegog, who was previously head of religious broadcasting for the Independent Broadcasting Authority, covering ITV, Channel 4 and independent radio, is to become head of communications for the London diocese. He said it was understandable that many would see his move as a downwards step, adding: "But where do you go after being head of religious programming for the IBA and head of communications for the Church of England?"

Last month Anne Atkins used Radio 4's daily religious slot to condemn the Church of England for letting Southwark Cathedral be used for the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement's twentieth anniversary celebrations.

Mr Shegog complained that her broadcast had been inaccurate and "a serious error of judgment", and demanded an apology from the BBC. He faced hostile questions at the General Synod last month, when members voiced support for Mrs Atkins and said that he had no authority to condemn her.

Yesterday the Right Rev Richard Chartres, Bishop of London, said: "London is fortunate to have attracted someone of Eric Shegog's ability, commitment and experience."

Mrs Atkins, who condemned the cathedral for "celebrating 20 years of gay sex", has maintained a high profile, recently becoming agony aunt on a national newspaper.

Shegog: leaving job as church media chief

Insect flight tests reveal plane truth

By Nigel Hawkes, science editor

INSECTS use the same aerodynamic effects as Concorde to stay aloft, zoologists at Cambridge have shown.

According to the conventional laws of aerodynamics, insects should not fly. But by studying the flapping wings of a model based on the hawkmoth but ten times larger, Dr Charles Ellington and his colleagues have solved the mystery. The key is the generation and maintenance of vortices — little whirlpools of air — along the leading edge of the wing.

Concorde depends on this effect to take off and land. British scientists discovered after the Second World War that a slender delta wing in slow flight generates vortices at the wing tip that create lift. Because the same wing shape is also suitable for the different conditions of supersonic flight, Concorde became possible.

Insects do not have swept wings, but generate the same kind of vortices through flapping. The team reports in this week's *Nature* that they experimented with hawkmoths and a mechanical device called the "flapper" based on the same motion.

Tests using smoke in a wind tunnel showed that at the beginning of the moth's downstroke, when the wing is angled for maximum lift, a vortex is created at the wing root. "This creates a region of low pressure above the wing, which sucks the insect upwards," Dr Ellington says.

The vortex forms a spiral which moves along the leading edge of the wing towards the tip. The effect is to create lift on the downstroke equivalent to 1.5 times the moth's weight, more than adequate to keep it airborne.

"People have speculated that insects generate lift through creating vortices," Dr Ellington says, "but nobody had been able to see them."

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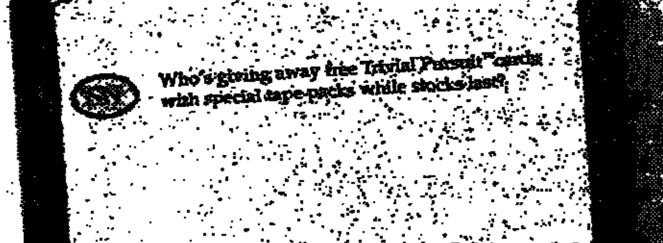

Who's giving away free Trivial Pursuit™ cards with special tape packs while stocks last?

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Vets urge caution over changes to quarantine rules

By Michael Hornsby, agriculture correspondent

VETS warned yesterday against an early change to quarantine controls and called for more evidence that alternative safeguards would keep out rabies.

Karl Linklater, president of the British Veterinary Association, said vets still needed to be persuaded that a system based on vaccination and blood tests could provide the same protection as quarantine.

"A standardised procedure for the microchip identification of dogs and cats would be an absolute pre-condition for any relaxation of quarantine," Dr Linklater said. "We have no problems with the science of a system based on vaccination, blood testing and microchipping, provided it is properly implemented and enforced.

"It is only within the last month that the International Standards Organisation has published part two of its standard for microchips, and individual companies have still to adopt it." He added that the Government should not underestimate the difficulty of controlling the much larger number of pets likely to enter Britain as a result of abolition of quarantine. The association estimates that up to 250,000 dogs and cats could enter Britain each year, compared with about 9,500 now.

Dr Linklater said the gap between what looked acceptable on paper and what could be enforced in practice had been shown by the difficulty the Government had experienced in making slaughterhouses comply with controls on "mad cow" disease.

The association has been under pressure from within its own ranks to press for revision of the rabies laws. In October a group calling itself Vets in Support of Change castigated the present laws as an "anachronism and indefensible on scientific grounds".

Last week the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals announced that it would lobby the Government for a switch to a system based on vaccination, blood tests to prove that animals had been immunised, and permanent identification. The society argued that such a system could provide "an equal, if not greater, protection from rabies as quarantine".

With the Kennel Club, the RSPCA runs a computer database for microchipped dogs, which number about 300,000 of the seven million in Britain. The chip is the size of a grain of rice and is implanted in loose skin around the dog's neck. It costs £30 to have a dog microchipped and registered on the database. Each chip carries a unique ten-digit identification number for the database, which holds the animal's details.

The Government is conducting a review of quarantine. Ireland is the only other country that requires six months' quarantine for pets.

ADRIAN BROOKS

Edwin the boxer about to be injected with a microchip. The chip carries the ID number for a computer database

Pit bull terrier has become a dying breed

By Richard Ford

THE pit bull terrier is on the way to being eliminated from Britain owing to the success of one of the most criticised pieces of government legislation.

The breed's numbers have fallen from an estimated 8,600 to 3,500, with 430 destroyed, since the Dangerous Dogs Act came into operation five years ago. The rest have died. Vets believe that the remainder could go within five years.

Yesterday, however, the Home Affairs Select Committee recommended a relaxation of the Act's harshest provisions, such as the death penalty for dogs that are not neutered, muzzled in public and insured. Sir Ivan Lawrence, its chairman, said: "Despite being held up as the classic example of an Act passed in haste and in response to tabloid pressure, it was necessary and has been successful."

The committee of MPs also recommended "bail" for dogs awaiting a verdict, increased visiting rights to those held in kennels and the reintroduction of dog licences.

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THE GREAT SALES GUIDE
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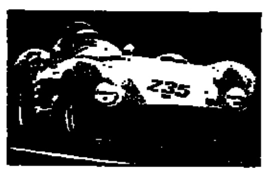

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Carpet of bluebells takes a beating from trampling feet

By Nick Nuttall, environment correspondent

BRITAIN'S beauty spots are in danger of being trampled to death by the growing number of ramblers, campers and mountain bikers pouring into the countryside.

Jim Littlemore, an ecologist at Warwick University who has been studying the impact on woodland plants such as foxgloves, violets and bluebells, believes the time is coming when numbers visiting more popular woods will have to be controlled.

The effects of people using three woods in Warwickshire — Tocil, Tilehill and Crackley — were measured by a network of pressure gauges. Mr Littlemore found that about 8 per cent of the ground became bare when 258 people a year strolled through an area of woodland. The proportion of bare ground rose to 74 per cent when the numbers rose to 1,947. The wood then became prone to erosion and more hardy, but less attractive plants moved in.

Mr Littlemore also told the British Ecological Society, meeting at Durham University, that he had studied the impact of simulated trampling on the health of bluebells. Seed production among a carpet of bluebells declined to 10 per cent of that of an undisturbed patch after an estimated 200 people had passed through. The effect on seed production persisted for a year after the trampling. Bluebell cover also dropped sharply if the plants were trampled on every spring, the research showed.

Richard Smithers, of the Woodlands Trust, a charity which manages 800 woods with free public access, said yesterday that the trust was already using paths and rides to steer people away from sensitive areas.

☐ Hopes of saving one of Britain's rarest moths, the netted carpet moth, from extinction have received a boost with the discovery of a large and healthy colony near Broughton in Furness in the Lake District. The moth, which also has a small colony in North Wales, has been listed as in need of urgent action under the Government's recently published biodiversity action plan.

Its fate is linked with an equally rare small flower, called the touch-me-not balsam, on which the larval stages of the moth depend. The balsam is so called because its pods can fire the large, heavy seeds up to two metres.

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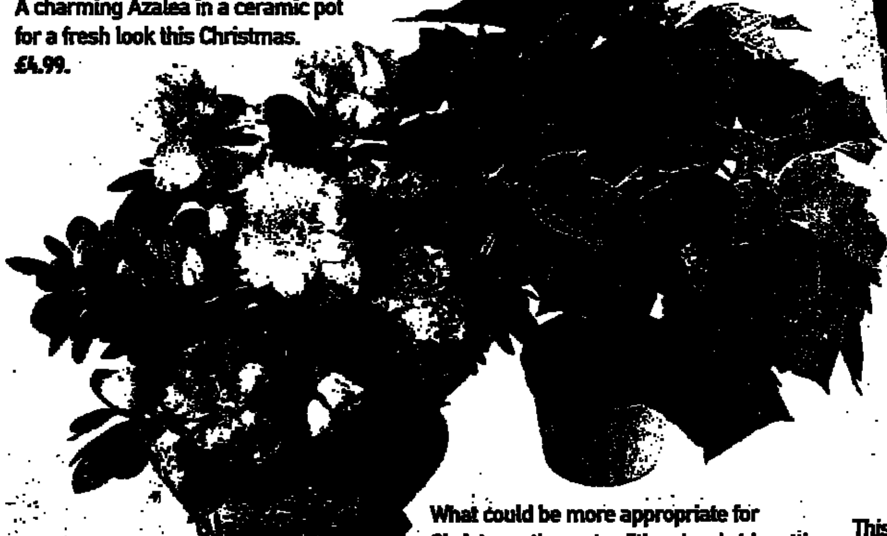

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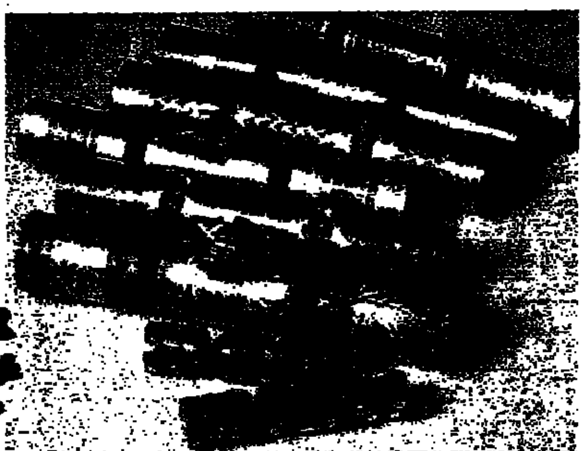

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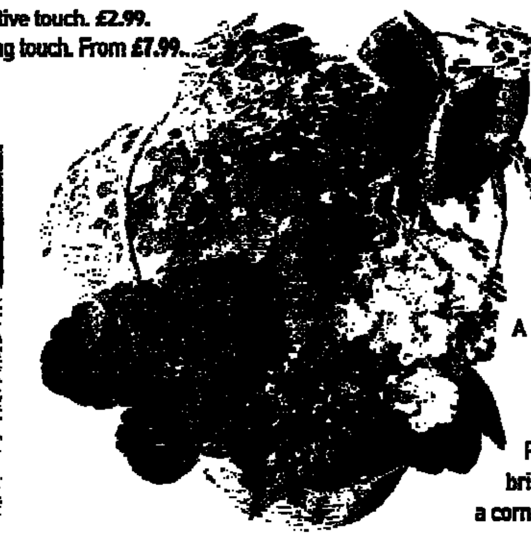

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Prime-time ad deal raises fears over TV independence

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

A LIGHT entertainment show is to become the first British prime-time television programme to be paid for entirely by an advertiser.

BT is to meet the £100,000 cost of the *ITV* programme *Now We're Talking*, which will be screened on December 30. It will be hosted by Phillip Schofield on the theme of communication and will feature comedy clips and interviews with such celebrities as Jim Davidson, Terry Wogan and Sue Pollard.

Aileen Boughen, a spokeswoman for BT, said that the company had approved the list of guests, but had had no direct editorial input. She added that it was considerably cheaper to pay for a programme than to buy 30 minutes of prime-time advertising at well over £1 million. "It is part of a bigger campaign aimed at improving communication in our society," she said. "Obviously, from BT's point of view, there is a commercial interest if people can communicate more."

The deal marks a departure in the way that television programmes are funded and recalls the practice of the giant American washing-powder manufacturers in the 1950s which funded daytime dramas aimed at housewives, giving rise to the term "soap opera".

Schofield: will interview stars on communication

Television sponsorship is increasing and more shows paid for entirely by advertisers are expected to be announced in the coming year. *ITV* will announce today that *Blind Date*, its prime Saturday evening show hosted by Cilla Black, is to be sponsored by the travel firm Going Places.

Regulators are likely to be concerned that the trend could lead to interference with the content of programmes by advertisers. Independent Television Commission guidelines prohibit advertiser-funded or sponsored programmes from giving undue prominence to branded products, but editorial interference can occur in more subtle ways. Attempts by Heineken to change the ethnic mix of the studio audience for *Hotel Babylon*, the late-night Channel 4 programme it backed, embarrassed the company when details of its meddling were leaked.

The BT logo will not appear on the studio set of *Now We're Talking*, but will be on the opening and closing credits. A free booklet about communication will be available via a freephone number publicised at the end of the programme. BT will buy advertising in the programme's breaks.

A Carlton spokesman said that the programme would not be a publicity vehicle for BT. "The Independent Television Commission's guidelines are there to protect viewers from being confused by a commercial message contained within a programme and we obviously endorse and have followed those guidelines."

Nick Kelvin, planning director of CIA Medianetwork, a communications agency, said: "As the number of channels continues to grow, and it becomes easier for audiences to actively avoid commercials by using the remote control, co-production deals are bound to increase."

BBC disappointed by licence fee rise

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

THE television licence fee is to rise by the equivalent of inflation over the next five years. Next year it will increase by £2 to £91.50 for colour sets, and by 50p to £30.50 for black and white.

Rises above inflation for the following two years will be balanced by below-inflation increases for the next two. In 1998-99 the rise will be inflation plus 3 per cent and in 1999-2000 it will be inflation plus 0.5 per cent. But in the year to 2001 it will be inflation minus 1 per cent, and in 2001-2 inflation minus 2.5 per cent.

The price-rise formula was announced yesterday in a Commons written reply by Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary. It was a disappointment for John Birt, Director-General of the BBC, who had called for above-inflation increases to assist investment in digital technology. There has been no increase in the BBC licence fee in real terms for ten years.

Mr Birt said that it was "not realistic" for the Government to cut the licence fee in the fourth and fifth years of the agreement. "We will have to go back to the Government for those years. There is no question of our not being able broadly to provide the new digital and other services we have promised, but we may have to pull back in the extent and timing of our plans."

PETER NICHOLLS

Taylor Carrington recovering from an acute chest infection at the Evelina, with Staff Nurse Alison Fletcher

On guard at frontier of life and death

By John Young

JACK LOFTING, a previously healthy 13-month-old, suddenly developed ugly, livid rashes on his arms and legs last week. His mother, Joanna, telephoned her doctor, who took one look at the child and had him admitted to hospital.

By then Jack was critically ill and staff at Ashford Hospital, Kent, summoned help from the Evelina Children's Hospital in southeast London. An emergency "retrieval" team collected the child and rushed him to the paediatric intensive care ward at Guy's, where acute meningococcal septicaemia was diagnosed.

Treatment included antibiotics, injections of fluid into the bone, drugs to keep the heart going and the use of an oxygen ventilator. Two days later Jack was still unconscious, but was expected to make a full recovery.

Although working constantly at the frontier of life and death, the atmosphere at the Evelina, part of the Guy's and St Thomas's Hospital Trust, is one of quiet confidence and efficiency. Several times a week retrieval teams of doctors and nurses are dispatched to local hospitals to bring in children often close to death for emergency treatment.

Dr Ian Murdoch, the unit's director, has seen the number of patients treble to about 900 a year in three years, largely because of the high reputation of the retrieval service.

"We collect more patients for emergency treatment than any other hospital in the country," Dr Murdoch said. "We have a policy of never saying no. That means more and more people turn to us."

Nearly three quarters of the calls are after 7pm. The medical team on stand-by assembles the equipment it needs, and a driver and vehicle, usually a fast car, are supplied by the London Ambulance Service.

Taylor Carrington, who will be two on Monday, was taken to hospital in Greenwich two weeks ago with a chesty cough. His breathing deteriorated and after three days he was collected and taken to the Evelina.

There he was treated with antibiotics for an acute chest infection, from which he has recovered well. "We are very pleased with his progress," Alison Fletcher, a staff nurse said. "We are really working hard to get him home for Christmas."

The retrieval service is largely funded by the Evelina Children's Hospital Appeal, which has also provided £250,000 to increase the beds to 16. "As we get bigger, our budget is never big enough," Dr Murdoch said. "Nearly all the equipment is funded by the appeal."

The Evelina Appeal

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THE TIMES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Bishop in disaster inquiry call

The Bishop of Liverpool has called for a new investigation into the Hillsborough disaster. The Right Rev David Sheppard said yesterday that he now believed there was negligence on the part of "public bodies" which led to the tragedy, although he declined to specify them.

He has written to Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, urging him to launch a second inquiry into the disaster in Sheffield seven years ago. There were two areas for concern: the closed-circuit television operation and the deployment of ambulances.

Racial retraining

Detective Constable Shane Evans, of West Midlands police, who racially insulted a black woman officer, will be sent on an equal opportunities course. An industrial tribunal awarded the woman £17,000.

Smoking ban

Smoking is to be permanently banned at three Bournemouth beaches after the success of a trial scheme last summer. Tourism chiefs hope smokers will obey the rule, which they accept cannot be enforced.

Altar attack case

An unemployed London man was remanded in custody to tomorrow accused of climbing on the altar of Westminster Cathedral and attacking two worshippers. He was ordered to be examined by doctors.

Singing muggers

A 72-year-old man was robbed by men posing as carol singers. He was grabbed and held by the lead singer while the others searched his home in Reading, Berkshire. Cash and his pension book were stolen.

Burglar alarm

A burglar's 5am call to the RSPCA led to James O'Donnell, 26, being convicted of animal cruelty by Leicester magistrates. The burglar reported seeing a dog being kicked repeatedly.

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Nato plans snatch squad to hunt war criminals in Bosnia

By Michael Evans, defence correspondent

A PROPOSAL to set up a special police squad to hunt down war criminals in the former Yugoslavia was approved yesterday by Nato defence ministers in Brussels.

The ministers expressed concern that, since the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina ended more than a year ago, only seven of the 74 indicted war criminals had been captured, one of whom was convicted last month by the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague.

Although there is a 1,700-strong international police task force already in Bosnia, its role is to monitor law and order — it is not empowered to track down indicted war criminals. The new 31,000-man Nato-led Stabilisation Force (Sfor), which takes over the peacekeeping role in Bosnia from tomorrow, is also not mandated to go after suspected war criminals.

An American official at the Nato meeting said there was broad agreement in principle to send a war crimes squad to Bosnia to arrest indicted war criminals on behalf of the international tribunal.

The official said the police force could operate either directly to the tribunal or under the auspices of the European Union or the Organisation on Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). The ministers were unanimous that Sfor troops should not be given the task of arresting indicted war criminals. However, they could co-ordinate closely with the police force, the American official said.

He said the next step was to work out who would run the war crimes squad, how it would be organised and who would contribute to it.

It is acknowledged that any attempt to track down and arrest popular Serb figures such as Radovan Karadzic, the former Bosnian Serb President, could lead to confrontation and undermine the peacekeeping efforts. However, the Dayton peace accord obliges the three former warring factions to hand over indicted war criminals.

The majority of the indicted war criminals are Bosnian Serbs, although both Croats and Muslims are also included.

The two most prominent indicted Serbs are Mr Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic, the ex-commander of the Bosnian Serb army. Both are charged with genocide for the slaughter of up to 6,000 Muslim civilians in Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia. They are also charged over the siege of Sarajevo and the use of United Nations peacekeepers as human shields.

Other indicted war criminals still at large include 19 Serbs charged with atrocities at the Omarska prisoner of war camp. They include Zeljko Meakic, the camp commander, who is charged with genocide.

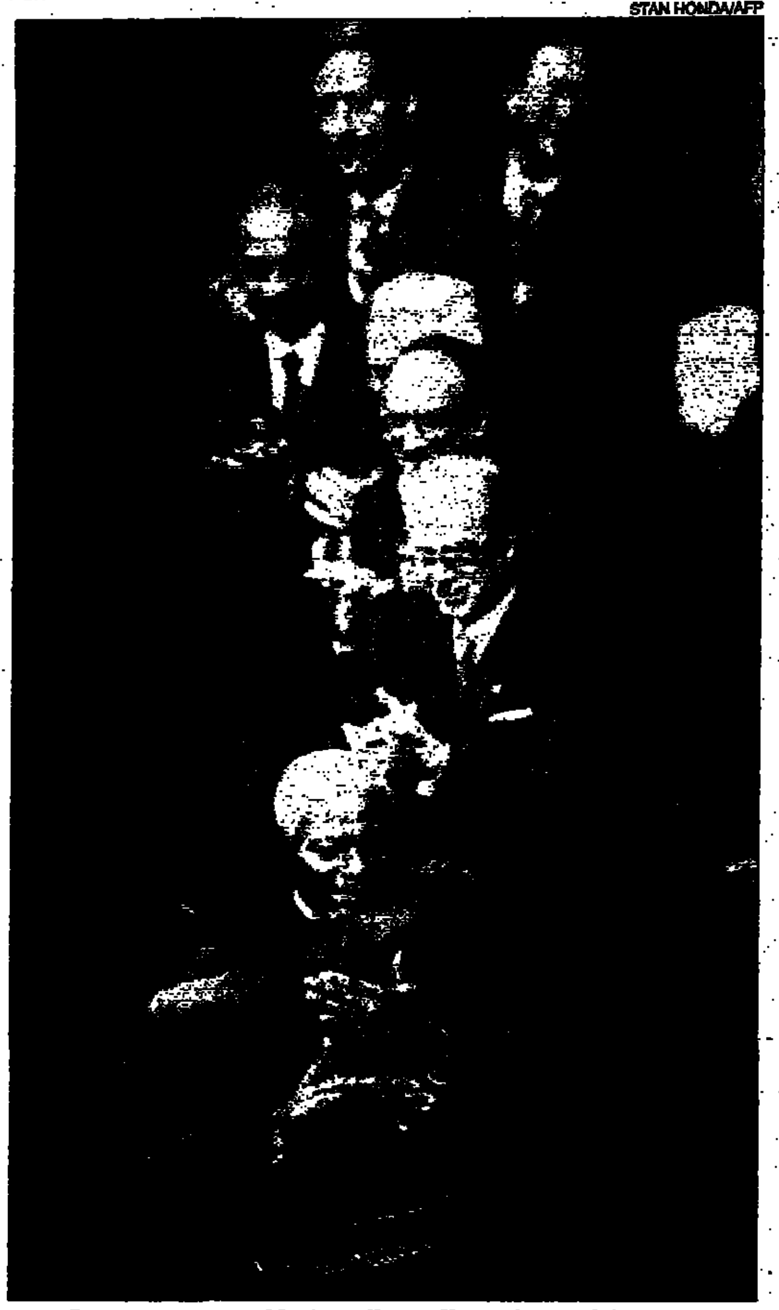
Three Yugoslav army (JNA) officers are charged with killing 261 non-Serbs who had been rounded up at a hospital in Vukovar, Croatia.

Those on the indicted list also include six Croats, who are charged with killing Muslim civilians during ethnic cleansing of the Lasva valley area in central Bosnia.

Two Serbs are charged with killings and other atrocities at Luka camp in Brcko in north-eastern Bosnia.

NATO defence ministers suffered a setback yesterday in their attempts to work more closely with Russia (Michael Evans writes). At a Brussels meeting with Igor Rodionov, their Russian counterpart, they proposed an exchange of military liaison officers, to be based at key command centres. He called the offer premature. A Russian general already serves at Nato's Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe to help to coordinate the Russians' involvement in Bosnia.

STAN HONDA/AFP



Kofi Annan is hugged by Ismail Razali, president of the General Assembly, after he was sworn in as Secretary-General at the UN

Annan promises to streamline the UN for 21st-century role

From James Bone in New York

KOFI ANNAN, the new United Nations Secretary-General, said yesterday that he hoped to work with member states to "reposition" the organisation for the next century.

In an amiable press conference that marked a break with the haughty style of his predecessor, Boutros Boutros Ghali, Mr Annan, who takes office on January 1, said he planned to continue streamlining the bureaucracy while seeking consensus on more fundamental changes in the UN's role. "What I would hope to do during the period I am in office is to work with the member states and redefine the role of this organisation and perhaps prepare it for the 21st century," he said.

He added that he expected the first results of this debate within his first six months in office. Mr Annan's election as the next UN chief has raised hopes that the United States, which backed his candidacy, may now make good on its $1.4 billion (£838 million) in arrears to the organisation.

Mr Annan said he was confident that the Clinton Administration would do all it could to repay the debt, and that the UN would also do its part with continuing reforms. "I expect to work with the Administration, and through them the Congress, to get the US to pay the money due to the organisation," he said.

Mr Annan, a career UN official who has run the UN peacekeeping department for the last three years, emphasised that he would manage the UN with a "collegial style" and sought to reassure the embattled UN staff.

"I am not setting out with the objective that I have to lay off staff, but if, as part of the reform process, some departures are necessary it will have to be done, but it will be done in a humane and sensitive manner," he said.

Mr Annan hinted that Britain, which had strongly backed him, might lose its top post in the UN hierarchy in return for another similar position. British diplomats have already begun lobbying for Britain to keep the post of Under Secretary-General of political affairs when Marrack Goulding, now the highest-ranking Briton at UN headquarters, leaves the post to became head of St Antony's, Oxford, next year.

Mr Goulding took the UN job a decade ago when Sir Brian Urquhart retired after many years at the organisation. Mr Annan said he wanted to "rotate" the top jobs between different countries so that no nation came to believe that it had a right to a particular post.

With Mr Annan's promotion from head of peacekeeping, vacancies now exist in both the department of peacekeeping and political affairs, the two most important units of the UN secretariat. France, which lifted its threat to veto Mr Annan's appointment, has been pushing for a high-level job at the UN.

The new Secretary-General said that the 15-nation Security Council reflected the political and economic realities of 1945 and should be brought up to date. He endorsed claims by Germany and Japan to permanent membership of the council, but added that "they will get in with others".

Leading article, page 17

Austerity puts paid to presents in Italy

From Richard Owen
in Rome

YOU would not know it from the crowds thronging the festively decorated shopping streets of Rome and Milan, but Italy is experiencing what *Il Messaggero* yesterday called "an austerity Christmas".

Along with other newspapers, it published a survey showing that one in five Italians has decided not to give any Christmas presents this year. "It is not so much that we are poor, more that we feel as if we are," the paper said. "Italians are spending their money more prudently."

Italy is an affluent society, and Italians secretly believe their cities are the most charming in Europe, their women the most beautiful and their wines the most drinkable. But paradoxically they also have a tendency toward self-flagellation, accentuated at the moment by the fear that they are not really in Europe's "big league" and will fail to qualify for the single currency, despite the prodigious efforts of the centre-left Government of Professor Romano Prodi to meet the Maastricht criteria.

The survey revealed that 20 per cent of Italians (and a higher proportion in the disdvantaged South) believe that they are "poor". Even more significantly, 43 per cent think they soon will be. Italians are not relishing the prospect of paying a "Euro tax" next year to help to reduce the budget deficit.

Monaco princesses 'lax about private lives', says brother

From Ben Macintyre in Paris

PRINCE ALBERT of Monaco, the heir to the Mediterranean principality, said yesterday that publicity surrounding his sisters' troubled private lives may have been partly of their own making.

"My sisters have not always taken or wanted to take precautions because it was too constraining," the 38-year-old bachelor prince said, adding that he had gone to great lengths to keep his emotional life out of the public eye. "Because I saw what happened to my sisters, I protected myself even more ... we have been horribly treated like film stars, and people think they have the right to intrude." Prince Albert told *Le Figaro* newspaper, on the eve of a trip to Rome to celebrate the 700th anniversary of the Grimaldi dynasty.

Asked why he has yet to marry, the prince said he was not linked to "anybody in a serious way" at the moment, noting the problems awaiting his future spouse as the wife of a royal family's head.

"The task will not be easy ... as for myself, from an early age I have become used to the incessant pressure of photographers ... I don't want to get married just to please people. Of course, my future wife will be a princess, that is important, but above all she will be the person with whom I will share my life. I don't want to make a mistake."

Neither Princess Caroline nor Princess Stéphanie will be at the Rome celebrations to mark the opening of a museum exhibition dedicated to the Grimaldis, but the model Claudia Schiffer is expected to attend as Prince Albert's companion. Princess Stéphanie was granted a divorce in October, a month after her husband, Daniel Ducruet, was pictured cavorting with a Belgian striptease dancer. Her older sister, Caroline, was featured recently in gossip columns in the company of Prince Ernst Auguste of Hanover, a married man.

Referring to rumours suROunding his accession, the prince said "no date has been fixed" and that his father, Prince Rainier III, would transfer power "calmly" when he saw fit. "He is a shy man who hides his true personality behind his modesty," the prince said of his father, who has faced unpleasant publicity over the emotional entanglements of his daughters.

Prince Albert: dislikes "film star" treatment

Spielberg rescues star's Oscar

From Giles Whittell
in Los Angeles

STEVEN Spielberg, the director, has presented Clark Gable's only Oscar to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences after buying it anonymously at auction for a record $607,500 (£368,000).

The surprise gift brings a treasured symbol of Hollywood's golden era back to the institution that awards the Oscars. The Academy, which frowns on the resale of its awards, had failed in a last-minute bid to stop the auction at Christie's Beverly Hills branch with a court order.

With a chipped marble base and brass showing through its gold-plating, the Best Actor Oscar Gable won in 1934 for his role as a reporter in *It Happened One Night* was bought by Spielberg with a telephone bid.

The previous record price for an Oscar was $563,500 paid in 1993 for Vivien Leigh's Best Actress award for *Gone With The Wind*.

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And it doesn't get any better. Later, she'll find entering society impossible because she won't be able to enter polling stations, public buildings or public transport.

Which brings us to today, Human Rights Day, when we ask you to remember that disabled people have just as many rights as non-disabled people.

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We can't cure cerebral palsy. But we can do our best to cure society's prejudice. To this end, we need the means: your time, your money and your positive attitude. For more information call Scope on 0800 62 62 16.

And remember, if you value your own rights, isn't it wrong to deny them to others? Think about it [illegible]

SCOPE
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One has cerebral palsy.
The other has full human rights.

هكذا من الأهل

[illegible]

Reno: assurance

FBI agent on spying charge

From Ian Brodie
in Washington

THE FBI arrested one of its own agents yesterday on charges of spying for Russia.

Earl Edwin Pitts, 43, an FBI supervisor, was accused of selling sensitive classified documents to Moscow for more than five years, a charge that could carry the death penalty. He made a brief court appearance in Alexandria, Virginia, and was remanded in custody until tomorrow. It was alleged he had been paid more than $224,000 (£136,000).

Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, and Louis Freeh, the FBI Director, were scheduled to give a news conference at which they were expected to emphasise that *the arrests proved the Government's* efficiency in capturing those who betray its secrets.

France increases security amid fear of holiday bomb

From Ben Macintyre in Paris

FRENCH police have boosted security at stations, airports and public buildings amid fears that Islamic terrorists may launch further bomb attacks in Christmas week.

Since the attack on a crowded Paris commuter train on December 3, which killed four people and injured dozens of others, hundreds of additional troops and armed police have been patrolling potential targets and carrying out identity checks across France.

Christmas Eve, the second anniversary of the hijacking of a French plane by Islamic terrorists, is seen as the most likely date for a resumption of violence by Algerian fundamentalists, who accuse France of supporting the military-backed regime in Algiers.

On December 24, 1994, four members of the militant Algerian Armed Islamic Group (GIA) took 170 hostages on an Air France jet in Algiers. The plane was stormed 56 hours later at Marseilles airport by French anti-terrorist police and the hijackers were killed. The Islamic guerrillas had planned to blow up the plane over Paris.

That incident, regarded as a key symbolic date in the GIA calendar, set off a chain of tit-for-tat violence. Three days after the failed hijacking, three French priests were murdered in Algeria.

In the 24 hours to yesterday morning, 6,146 people were subjected to identity checks in France, Paris police said yesterday, and 1,587 vehicles were stopped and searched in the massive security operation code-named Vigipirate. More than 100 people, many suspected of being illegal immigrants, were taken into custody for questioning.

The security plan, relaxed in recent months, was brought back into full force on the order of President Chirac after the rush-hour bombing at Port Royal station earlier this month.

Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, was among the first to visit the scene of the bombing. He has been working with ministers since to co-ordinate the additional security. The political stakes are high for the unpopular M Juppé, who is acutely aware that a renewed terrorist campaign is certain to cause a further erosion of voters' confidence in the embattled Government.

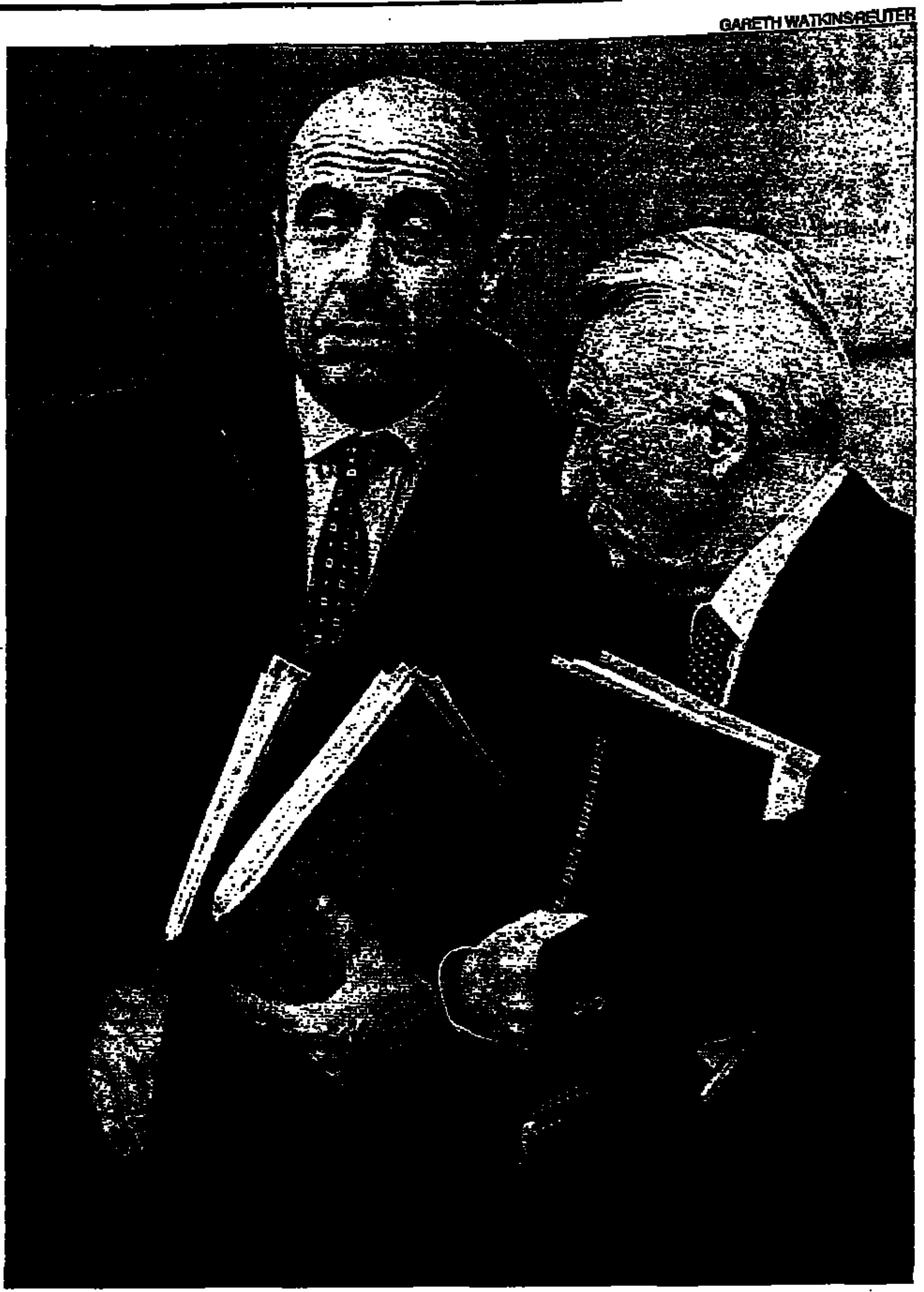
Scores of bomb alerts have *been reported in Paris during* the past two weeks, including a false bomb threat at the Paris Bourse that closed the exchange for several hours. Shoppers at all the capital's larger department stores are being searched on entry, and all rubbish bins at "sensitive sites" have been sealed.

Meanwhile, forensic scientists' tests suggest the bomb in the train attack may have been slightly different from those used last year. Unlike previous attacks, the gas-canister bomb had previously contained petrol, igniting a fireball. French police are still searching for Ali Touchent, alias Tarek, the 39-year-old GIA "emir" suspected of recruiting youths in Lyons to carry out last year's attacks. M Touchent's alleged recruits included Khaled Kelkal, the bomber shot dead by police in September last year.

The GIA has recently been convulsed by violent internal feuds, and French experts on Islamic terrorism say that since last year's attacks the group appears to have dispatched more sophisticated, smaller units to carry out terrorist actions in France, which are far harder to trace.

"With the approach of Ramadan, there are calls for this *war to redouble in ferocity,"* Maati Kabbal, an Islamic expert, wrote in *Libération* newspaper yesterday.

GARETH WATKINS/REUTER



Alain Juppé, left, the French Prime Minister, and Bernard Pons, the Transport Minister, after the Cabinet agreed a decree on the working hours of lorry drivers

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cypriot wins land right case

Nicosia: Cyprus hailed a landmark ruling by the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg that Turkey had violated the right to property of a Greek Cypriot woman (Michael Theodoulou writes). She has been denied access to her land since Turkish forces went into the north of the island 22 years ago.

"It is a great success," declared President Clerides, the Greek Cypriot leader. The judgment is expected to open the floodgates for further claims by about 180,000 Greek Cypriots, including many now living in Britain.

Nigerians held

Lagos: Nigerian police arrested three people after a bomb explosion injured 12 *soldiers near the offices of the* military administrator of Lagos state, Colonel Muhammad Marwa. *(AFP)*

Release ruling

Karachi: A court has ordered *the* release of Asif Ali Zardari, husband of Benazir Bhutto, the deposed Prime Minister, ruling his detention unlawful, leaders of the Pakistan People's Party said. *(Reuter)*

Cost of Marcos

San Francisco: A federal appeals court has upheld £1.2 billion in damages against Ferdinand Marcos's estate for the torture and killing of 10,000 Filipinos during his 14-year presidency. *(AP)*

Killer shot dead

Kabul: A man who killed a pregnant Afghan woman and her three children during a burglary was shot dead by the victim's husband in a public execution ordered by Taleban under Islamic law. *(Reuter)*

Mock execution

Dushanbe: United Nations observers monitoring the implementation of a ceasefire in Tajikistan were subjected to a *mock execution by Tajik government troops*, the UN mission here said. *(Reuter)*

Students killed

Nairobi: Kenyan police shot dead two students during a riot at Kenyatta University in Nairobi. The protest was over the killing on Tuesday of a student at Egerton University in Njoro. *(Reuter)*

Songwriter dies

New York: Irving Caesar, the lyricist who wrote *Tea for Two* in a five-minute burst of inspiration in Manhattan's Tin Pan Alley in 1925, has died at the age of 101.

Obituary, page 19

EU votes to support tobacco

From Leyla Linton
in Brussels

EUROPEAN Union tobacco subsidies should continue, the Commission concluded yesterday, despite fierce opposition from Padraig Flynn, the Commissioner for Health.

Mr Flynn had argued that *the £800 million in subsidies* for tobacco growers undermined EU anti-smoking measures, which cost £12 million.

However Franz Fischler, the Commissioner for Agriculture, said that subsidies were necessary because 150,000 *families depended on them.* Eight EU countries produce tobacco.

The Commissioners voted overwhelmingly in favour of adopting Herr Fischler's report, which recommends reforming the subsidy programme to target aid on higher quality products, offering buy-outs to encourage farmers to stop growing tobacco and doubling the 1 per cent levy on subsidies which finances an EU health fund.

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PANASONIC 4-Head NICAM Stereo Video with VideoPlus Model NVHD605 Was £399.99. 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* £30 CURRYS PRICE £369.99

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Huge budget cuts enrage academics on 'white' campuses

Traditionally white universities are losing out in the post-apartheid era, **R. W. Johnson** reports from Johannesburg. But they have allies among the swelling ranks of black middle-class parents

CONSTERNATION and outrage have greeted the news of steep financial cuts to what are known in South Africa as the historically white universities and sweeping measures of redistribution towards the historically black universities.

University vice-chancellors at Rhodes, Natal, Witwatersrand and other "white" universities have indignantly pointed out that blacks already form half of their student bodies and that the number is still rising sharply. They claim there is no sense in inflicting such large cuts on the country's best universities in order to pour money into the old "tribal colleges", once reviled as apartheid creations but now, ironically, embraced by the Government as the most "progressive" section of higher education. The vice-chancellors have given warning that these measures are bound to lead to the forced redundancies of many faculties and the emigration of others.

Certainly, such measures in education will do nothing to slow white emigration in general, currently running at 3,000 to 4,000 a month. The fate of the universities has enormous symbolic as well as practical significance to such people, who are painfully aware that in the countries to the north, African nationalism has devastated universities without exception.

The row has highlighted a degree of confusion in the Government's policy. For months, universities have been pressing Sibusiso Bengu, the Education Minister, to inform them of next year's subsidy level. Only now, with campuses closed and with the new financial year beginning on January 1, have universities learnt the facts. Mr Bengu has criticised the universities for releasing the figures which are, he says, still provisional. This leaves universities confused about what they are supposed to do after January 1, especially since the Government has just issued a higher education Green Paper which calls for a doubling of the number of students. This cannot be achieved if universities are simultaneously being cut back.

The ministry operates a subsidy formula but successive cutbacks mean that by last year the old white universities were receiving only 68 per cent of their subsidy figure, a shortfall they met by cutting faculty salaries (down almost 50 per cent in real terms since 1980) and on slicing library and maintenance expenditure. Now the Government has cut that figure again to 59 per cent — but simultaneously increased the subsidy to "black" universities, some of which are receiving as much as 143 per cent of their subsidy figure. In addition, the Government has set up a "redress fund" to funnel money exclusively to the old black campuses. Critics allege that the "black" universities will not be able to use this money constructively, for they are racked by endless discontent and are a byword for low standards.

The greatest irony, however, is that the "white" universities have made enormous efforts to increase their number of black students — Witwatersrand, for example, has for some years been digging into library and maintenance money to offer scholarships to disadvantaged students. It is precisely this that will have to stop — as well as becoming far tougher about non-payment of fees by black students. Black students have already given notice that any such moves will create a major explosion and already campuses are braced for a further round of trouble when they reopen in the new year.

A frantic round of bargaining lies ahead. The secret weapon of the old liberal universities is that the rising black middle class — including Cabinet ministers — invariably place their children there. They will be as unhappy as the universities themselves at the prospect of disruption ahead if Mr Bengu does not give ground quickly.

Asian fundraiser was dinner guest at White House

From Tom Rhodes in Washington

CHARLES TRIE, an Asian conduit for suspect donations to the Clintons, yesterday brought further humiliation to the White House when it emerged that he had maintained close ties to the President long after aides had questioned his probity.

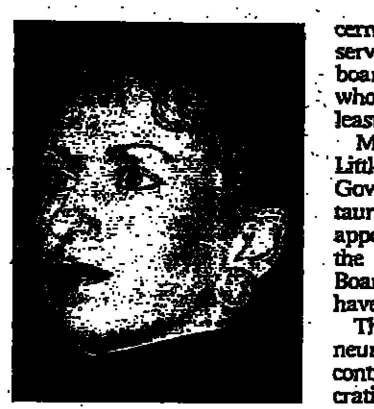
The entrepreneur had a conversation with the President at a White House Christmas dinner last week, days before his role was made public. Mr Trie is the central figure in the puzzle over $640,000 (£400,000) in questionable contributions to the defence fund created for the President and his wife two years ago.

Designed to defray the spiralling legal costs of cases involving the Clintons, including Whitewater and the Paula Jones sex harassment action, the fund, which faces bills of more than $2 million (£1.19 million), said this week that it had been forced to return the dubious contributions.

Mr Clinton, who described Mr Trie as an "old friend", said he had known of investigators' suspicions about the money, in large part raised through American chapters of a controversial Buddhist sect based in Taiwan.

"In all these fundraising endeavours, the rule should be that all cheques should be checked to make sure that not only as fact but even any appearance of impropriety should be removed," Mr Clinton said.

According to investigators, who were asked to examine the donations handed to the defence fund in March this year, many of them were in the names of students or waiters who later admitted that they had not made any direct or indirect contributions to the defence fund.



Jones: sex case is adding to legal costs for Clintons

Despite these suspicions and advice from senior aides that inquiries should be made about Mr Trie, he was one of 250 guests at the White House last Friday. In the middle of the inquiry last year he was appointed as a presidential adviser to an influential American trade commission on Asia. Although the White House denied any link between the appointment and his fundraising, he was said to have been considered a "must" for the panel.

Clinton aides also failed to inform the Democratic National Committee of their concerns. Until October, Mr Trie served on the national finance board, a select panel of those who have given or raised at least $350,000 for the party.

Mr Trie met Mr Clinton in Little Rock when the then Governor frequented his restaurant, Fu Lin. In 1988 he was appointed by Mr Clinton to the state Fire Extinguisher Board, and their two stars have risen in tandem.

The Taiwanese entrepreneur first made big political contributions to the Democratic Party in 1994 and the following year he wrote *An Asian Pacific American Fundraising Plan* for the Clinton-Gore campaign, outlining an ambitious programme with a target of up to $2 million in contributions.

"Asian Pacific Americans are second only to Jewish Americans in per capita contributions from ethnic [donors] to Democratic candidates," the memo said.

He has scouted for business in Taiwan with White House aides and regularly flaunted his Clinton connections in Peking and other Asian cities. He materialised at the Clintons' 1992 victory celebration in Little Rock, during an American trade visit to China and has even escorted wealthy Asians to the White House.

Most mysterious is his relationship with Ching Hai, a self-styled master of Zen Buddhism who claims millions of disciples around the world and almost 100,000 in the United States. Almost all of the money raised for the legal fund came from events organised by the Suma Ching Hai International Association.

Followers of the hybrid Buddhist doctrine have been known to drink Ms Ching's bathwater as a cure for disease. In Taiwan, her sect is under investigation for alleged accounting irregularities.

Official accused over stolen cash

New York: Paul Chernick, the manager of the Council of Jewish Organisations of Boro Park, in the Brooklyn area, has been charged with conspiring to steal more than $600,000 (£359,000) in government funds. He was also accused of diverting $15,000 to a public official, identified in media reports as Dov Hikind, a New York state assemblyman. Mr Hikind does not face any charges. *(AP)*

PETER NICHOLLS

Bethlehem's star tree caught up in red tape

Away in Manger Square, a member of Bethlehem's Tourist Police looks down on a space reserved for a 46ft Christmas tree from Finland that has fallen foul of the Israeli Agriculture Ministry. Elias Freij, the Palestinian Mayor of Bethlehem, yesterday accused Israel of "political provocation" over the tree (Christopher Walker in Bethlehem writes).

Mr Freij said: "This is deliberate. I appeal to the Israeli Ministry of Tourism to step in. They cannot think the Finns would have sent an unhealthy tree." The Mayor showed a fax from Helsinki stating: "I want to inform you that the tree sent from Finland has been stopped in [an] Israeli port due to unexpected quarantine regulations, but as time is running out, the same Finn who donated the original tree has now helped by donating a tall and beautiful local tree with its decorations." Mr Freij, a Christian who will be celebrating the second Christmas since Israeli military occupation was replaced by Palestinian self-rule, rejected the offer. "We do not want any tree grown in Israel. If necessary, we will decorate the Palestinian fir trees already growing near the Church of the Nativity in order to invoke the Christmas spirit." Orly Doron, a spokeswoman for the Israeli Tourism Ministry, said the tree had been held up "simply because there is a law against the import of plants from abroad before they have been cleared of disease". She added: "It is up to the Ministry of Agriculture whether it will be in time for Christmas. This is the law."

A similar row occurred in 1993 when Israel barred the entry of a 50ft tree for Bethlehem donated by Norway after the Israeli-Palestinian peace accord. "Whatever the . . . law, Israel should realise that actions like this are an international public relations disaster," commented one European diplomat.

Alcoholics guided to 12 steps

From Ian Brodie in Washington

AN AMERICAN study of three ways to treat alcoholism has found all were effective, but Alcoholics Anonymous's 12-step approach was best.

The researchers concluded that medical science has far to go in reaching the heart of alcoholic therapy and that treatment of problem drinkers could benefit greatly from the development of counselling, continued research into the brain chemistry of alcoholism, and work on new drugs.

The eight-year study involved more than 1,700 patients and 100 investigators at 30 clinics in the United States. The cost of $27 million (£16 million) was borne by the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, a government body. Alcoholism claims 100,000 American lives a year and is reckoned to cost $100 billion (£60 billion) in lost work and medical expenses.

The study tested the theory that alcoholics could be "matched" to the best treatment programme, based on the psychological factors that made them problem drinkers. "In general, this idea did not pan out," said Enoch Gordis, director of the institute.

The other two programmes were cognitive behaviour therapy — trying to teach skills to resist situations that increase the chance of drinking — and motivational enhancement therapy — promoting individual responsibility to overcome drinking from inner resources.

Drag Queen Barbie: a takeoff of the Ken doll

Barbie the drag queen hits shops

From Quentin Letts in New York

TRANSVESTITE and sluttish versions of the normally immaculately preened Barbie doll are being made and sold for high prices in California.

Satirical models such as Drag Queen Barbie, Hooker Barbie and Voodoo Barbie are doing the rounds among adult wits in San Francisco. The unauthorised versions lampoon the long-popular Mattel dolls which are, once again, a best-selling Christmas item in American shops. Retailers have reported shortages of Mattel-made Twirling Ballerina Barbie and Enchanted Evening Barbie.

The Anti-Barbies include the Trailer Trash Barbie, a doll dressed as a grubby denizen of one of the rundown caravan parks that litter the American wasteland. She has a cigarette dangling from her mouth, a toy baby slung over her shoulder, black roots in her blonde hairdo, and an accompanying caption says: "My Daddy swears I'm the best kisser in the county."

Voodoo Barbie is swathed in cheesecloth and stabbed through with pins. Drag Queen Barbie is a version of the popular male Ken doll dressed in the most flamboyant fashion. There is even talk of a Pickled Barbie — in the fashion of a Damien Hirst artwork.

Anti-Barbies are selling for as much as $60 (£40) — and Mattel lawyers are watching for copyright infringement.

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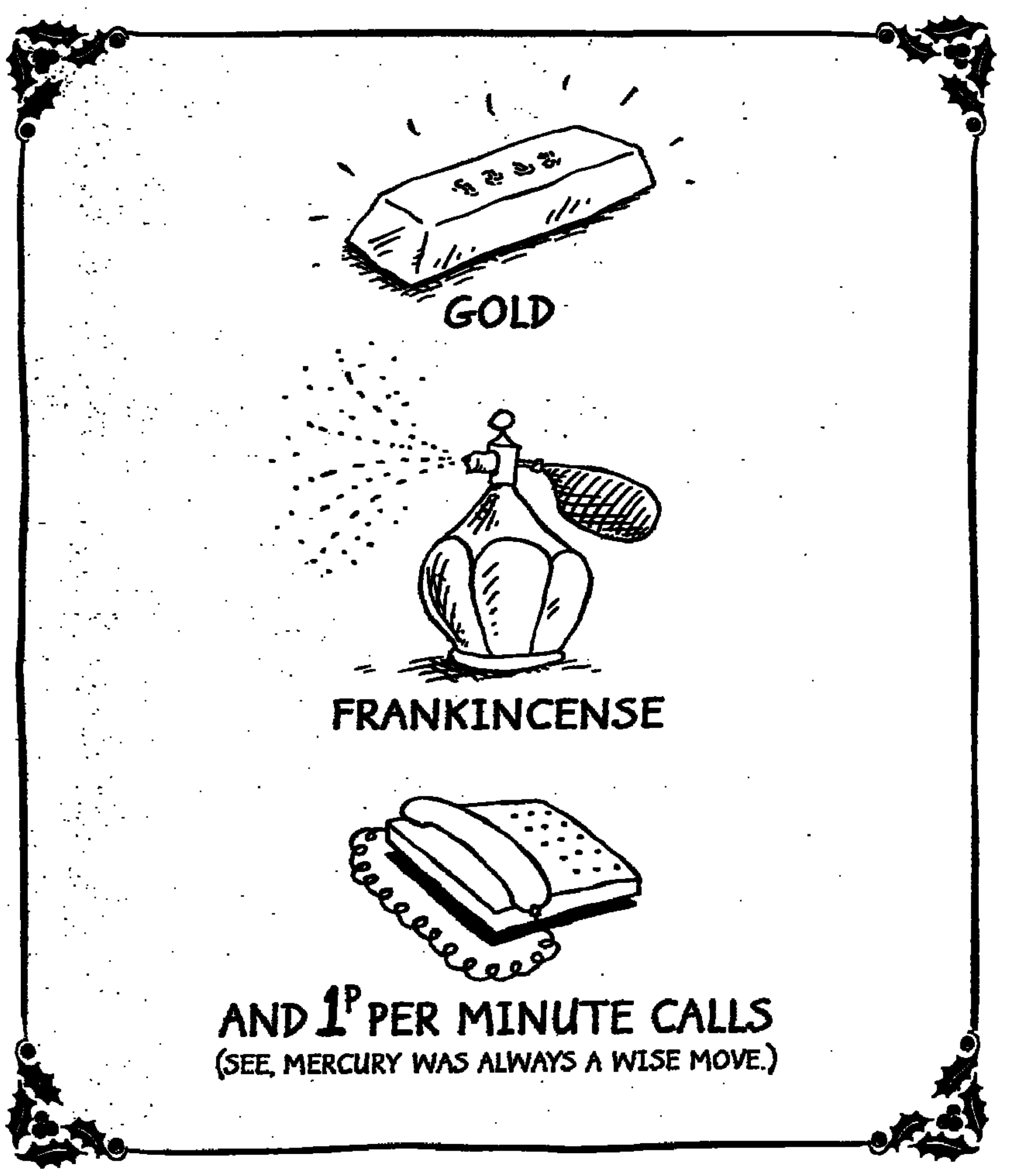

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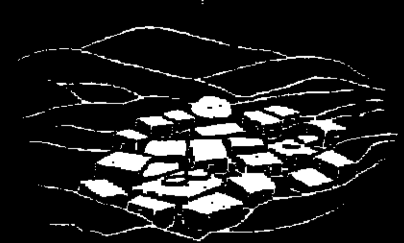

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Lima raid tests resolve of populist President

Alberto Fujimori appeared to have beaten inflation and political violence. Now the economic magic seems to be failing, and guerrillas have struck a symbolic target, says **John Crabtree**

CARLOS LEZAMA/AP

MANUEL LLANOS/REUTER

Police seize a suspected guerrilla outside the Japanese Ambassador's residence. Right, comfort is given to one woman freed by the gunmen, who threatened to kill the other hostages

PRESIDENT FUJIMORI has based his no-nonsense reputation on having dispatched Peru's two guerrilla movements, Sendero Luminoso and the Revolutionary Tupac Amarú Movement (MRTA). The latter's sudden reappearance as the perpetrators of the Lima hostage crisis threatens to damage his standing at home and abroad.

For much of the 1980s, the country was racked by violence from these two organisations. The Maoist-inspired Sendero set in motion what it hoped would be a "peasants' war" aimed at destroying the Peruvian state, provoking an equally severe backlash from the armed forces. Some 25,000 people were killed.

The MRTA was rather more restrained. Taking the Cuban revolution as its ideological cue, it sought to raise a rather more conventional, "anti-imperialist" standard, attacking principally America and more symbolic targets.

As recently as 1990, these two insurgencies represented a real threat to political stability. Faced by a combination of rampant hyper-inflation and the proliferation of political murders and sabotage, Señor Fujimori owes much of his popularity since then to having restored relative calm. But this involved tough measures. Justifying himself by the need to give greater autonomy to the army, he closed Congress in April 1992. Since then, through various manoeuvres, he has managed to rewrite the constitution, remove the bar on immediate re-election and get himself re-elected.

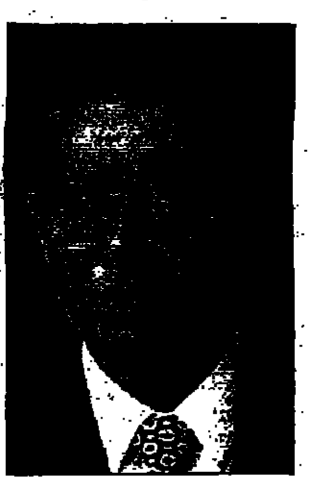
ANALYSIS

In spite of the Government's claims to have crushed the guerrillas, it has long been clear that they continued to operate at a reduced scale in various parts of the country. Indeed, Señor Fujimori acknowledged as much in this year's annual independence day speech on July 28.

Sendero, however, has been more in evidence than the MRTA. Consequently, the authorities have repeatedly refused to dismantle their anti-terrorist procedures, including the use of "faceless judges" to try those accused under draconian terrorist laws. The hostage crisis shows that a small group of motivated people can wreak havoc. For the MRTA, these are make-or-break tactics, designed to portray the Government as trampling on human rights at a time when Señor Fujimori's popularity appears to be in decline.

For the President, the crisis is one that puts his credibility on the line. On the one hand, foreign governments have been urging him to proceed with caution, avoiding bloodshed at all cost. On the other, an overly conciliatory response threatens to make him look weak and vacillating, not least in the eyes of Peru's armed forces, which have born the brunt of the war against the insurgency.

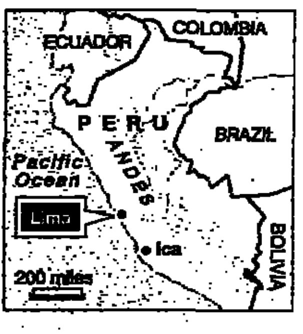
The outcome, therefore, is likely to have important consequences. Señor Fujomori has made no secret of his desire for another five years in office, once his term ends in 2000. But his stock is in decline. Opinion polls suggest he no longer enjoys the same public trust and loyalty as during his first term. There are others who are in the ascendant; for example the Mayor of Lima, Alberto Andrade.


Fujimori: has admitted failure to quell terror

Part of the problem is that Señor Fujimori's economic magic appears to be failing. Having conquered hyper-inflation and then presided over three years of rapid growth, culminating in last year's pre-election boom, the economy this year has stagnated. Faced at the beginning of the year with a current account deficit of Mexican proportions, Señor Fujimori was forced to slam on the brakes. Having awakened expectations of a better futre, he has been forced to back-pedal.

One of the most difficult problems he faces is how to ensure that the average Peruvian feels the economic benefits of his Government's policies. Many more people work in the so-called "informal sector", where incomes are extremely low, than in proper jobs. The economic recovery of the past three years has not brought an appreciable difference to employment levels, while the yawning gap separating rich and poor appears to have widened.

At the same time, Señor Fujimori has been roundly criticised for establishing an autocratic regime in which democratic institutions have had little role to play in decision-making.



Political parties have been eclipsed, and play only a minor role in Congress. The ruling Cambio 90-Nueva Mayoría routinely outvotes the opposition and, broadly speaking, does Señor Fujimori's bidding. The military, meanwhile, exercises strong influence behind the scenes.

By selecting the Japanese Ambassador's residence for its attack, the MRTA has chosen a symbolic target. Partly because of his own origins as a second generation immigrant, Señor Fujimori has made much of the need to develop ties with East Asia and Japan in particular. Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister, visited Lima this year, and Tokyo has offered Señor Fujimori preferential aid terms.

The author is an Oxford-based specialist in Peruvian politics.

Matthew Parris, page 16

Senior British envoy is held

By Michael Binyon, diplomatic editor, and Bill Frost

ROGER CHURCH, deputy head of the British mission in Lima, is among the hostages but has managed to telephone his embassy to say he is unharmed.

Mr Church was unable to say whether any other British passport-holders were among the hostages and could give no further details of what was happening in the building. However, the Foreign Office said yesterday that it was keeping in close touch with the Peruvian authorities, and had put into effect the usual emergency arrangements for dealing with incidents of this kind.

John Illman, the British Ambassador, also attended the Japanese reception, but left shortly before the terrorists seized the building. He was yesterday co-ordinating efforts to get Mr Church released. Britain, which has long experience of successful hostage negotiations, said it was ready to consider any request by the Peruvians for help, but has so far not been approached.

Mr. Church, 50, joined the Foreign Office in 1965. He then rose through the ranks before taking the post in Lima two years ago. He was previously Deputy High Commissioner in the Bahamas, and has also served in Abu Dhabi, Bonn, East Berlin, Lusaka, Madras, Colombo and Quito.

Last night Mr Church was described by friends and colleagues as "stable and calm ... unlikely to lose his cool in a crisis". While Deputy High Commissioner in Bermuda in 1991, he impressed those who met him with a "typically British sang-froid". During his tour of duty he played host to Terry Waite after the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy was freed from captivity in Beirut.

DIPLOMATS

Eileen Carron, publisher of the *Bermuda Tribune*, said Mr Church "had a very military bearing. He is very self-contained and very restrained. If anyone could face this ordeal without going into a panic, it is him."

Last night Mr Church's wife, Kathleen, and two sons, aged 22 and 19, were being kept in close touch with developments. A British Embassy source in Lima said "they were bearing up well".

Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, has set up a crisis centre in Bonn to deal with the seizure of Heribert Wöckel, the German Ambassador, held together with the Austrian Ambassador and other foreign diplomats. The Foreign Ministry said Herr Wöckel was being held with around 15 others in one room of the residence. The German Ambassador to Bolivia has been ordered to go to Lima to take over the embassy, and a crisis specialist was last night flying out from Bonn.

Arthur Schuschnigg, the Austrian Ambassador, was also understood to be unhurt and was being held in one of the residence's bathrooms, according to a spokewoman in Vienna.

Small rebel group has bloody history

By Michael Dynes

THE Revolutionary Tupac Amarú Movement, which staged yesterday's spectacular hostage seizure at the Japanese Ambassador's house, is the smaller of the two left-wing guerrilla organisations operating in Peru.

Founded in 1983 by student radicals committed to a Castro version of Marxist-Leninist ideology, the movement seeks to destabilise the central government and expel foreign business interests through "armed propaganda".

[illegible]

The name comes from the 16th-century Inca leader, Tupac Amarú, who led an Indian uprising against the Spanish colonisers. Despite its short history, the movement has been very active, mounting a series of bloody bank robberies, kidnappings and killings throughout the 1980s.

Unlike the Maoist Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path), which concentrated its activities in rural areas, Tupac Amarú specialises in urban terror. Even at its peak, however, it never had more than 1,000 fighters, compared to more than 10,000 recruited for its Maoist rival.

When President Fujimori took office in 1990, he threw the Government's internal security apparatus into an all-out war on both guerrilla movements. Human rights groups estimate that more than 1,200 suspected rebels have been jailed on charges of subversion.

Under the "repentance laws", however, suspected guerrillas have been able to reduce their sentences by pointing the finger at their revolutionary comrades. As a result, many civilians have been jailed on flimsy evidence.

In 1992, the Peruvian Government chalked up two big counter-insurgency successes with the capture of Victor Polay Campos, the movement's leader, and Abimael Guzmán, the head of Sendero Luminoso.

Michel Mining, the Red Cross chief in Peru, carries medicine to injured hostages in Lima yesterday

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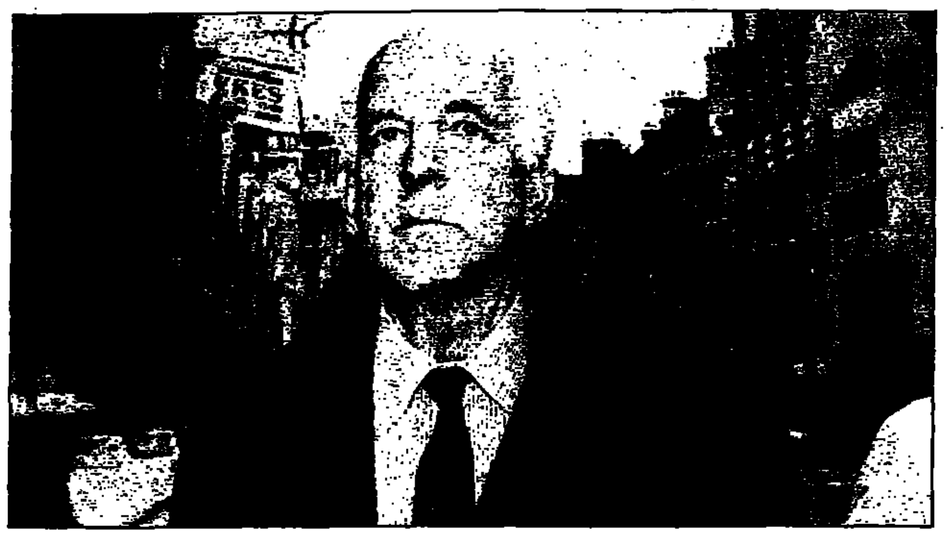
هكذا في الاصل

هكذا في الأصل

Dr Thomas Stuttaford on the problems faced by doctors when diagnosing dementia in the elderly, chemotherapy treatment for cancer and hair loss, seasonal warnings over preparing food and drinking too much — and why a dose of mistletoe can be good for you

Why Saunders could not have been faking it



Ernest Saunders: he was suffering from dementia, but it was not Alzheimer's

Ernest Saunders's dealings in the City while in charge of Guinness may have made him a crook in the eyes of the world, but it would be beyond the ability of the most gifted and subtle actor to simulate dementia. Saunders was not a malingerer, it was his doctors who were at fault by making a very common diagnostic mistake.

The doctors mistook the dementia of Alzheimer's disease for the pseudo-dementia of the depressed, elderly melancholic. Saunders was demented, but not with Alzheimer's. It may well be that he is not as quick intellectually as in his heyday and when he is seen on television it is hard to believe that he ever had the acute brain he must once have employed.

The slowing of his cognitive facilities — medical speak for intellect — may well have accentuated the effect of the depression from which he was obviously suffering, and which had been induced by the change of his circumstances, from the boardroom to the dock, and then to prison.

Nobody recovers from Alzheimer's. It is a degenerative disease and the damage done to the brain is, at the moment, irreversible. Although any overlying depression has lifted, Saunders will still be faced with the disadvantages of having a brain that has shrunk, like many other 60-year-old brains. Fortunately for him, he is enthusiastic, has great experience of the City, and is articulate enough still to make a very good living as a consultant and lecturer.

Saunders may have made his own doctors look foolish, but he has done medicine a great service: he has drawn attention to the dangers of labelling all senile dementia as Alzheimer's. The Saunders case has also shown that the amount of cerebral atrophy (brain shrinkage) which can be demonstrated and measured on an MRI scan in older people cannot be directly related to their loss of intellectual power.

It sounds almost unkind now to suggest that a patient has dementia, whereas to say that they are suffering from Alzheimer's makes the diagnosis socially acceptable to relatives, although it has terrifying consequences for the patients.

Unfortunately, as a result of accepting this new convention, there are many elderly people who are condemned to a lifetime of misery and institutional care who may well have needed only a course of pills to enable them to live at home and be a reasonably cheerful member of the family and community.

There are many different causes of dementia. Alzheimer's is frequently confused with multi-infarct dementia, in which a series of small strokes has destroyed enough of the brain to cause intellectual loss. The damage from each episode leaves the patient progressively less intelligent, so that their downhill path tends to be step by step.

Multi-infarct syndrome is usually associated with high blood pressure, although it can also be brought on by small strokes caused by clots in the cerebral vessels as well as by little haemorrhages. It is possible to see the circumscribed area of the brain which has been damaged on an MRI scan.

This type of dementia is often associated with depression and it is interesting to note that in Ernest Saunders's picture taken after his release from prison there was quite a marked facial asymmetry, such as might have occurred after a small stroke.

Other forms of dementia can be a reaction to drugs, whether they are prescribed or taken in the form of alcohol. The good news about alcohol is that many of the mental changes which are associated with it, if it is taken in grossly excessive quantities, are reversible. If taken in small quantities by the elderly, alcohol improves the intellect.

Pseudo-dementia, which afflicted Saunders, can be distinguished from other causes of dementia by making a careful neurological examination and taking a very detailed history, as well as by the use of MRI scanners and other clinical aids.

When depression is causing dementia, there are a few common clues; these patients tend to be more concerned by their memory loss than those with Alzheimer's, they have the sleep pattern of a depressive, their appetite is lost, their symptoms vary depending on the time of the day, and they are constipated. Above all, they improve when treated with anti-depressants.

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A small price to pay

Linda McCartney's fans were delighted that she looked so well at her first public appearance after a long course of chemotherapy. Mrs McCartney was seen on a video screen when she accepted an award from an animal rights group.

Only Mrs McCartney's hair gives any evidence of the heavy-dose chemotherapy she has been having in Los Angeles. The effect of this type of chemotherapy on hair growth is one disadvantage of the treatment but, compared with some of its other possible side-effects, is a small price to pay. Once treatment has been finished, the hair growth returns to normal.

Hair is constantly shed and replaced by new growth. At any one time, between 80 and 90 per cent of hair is in its active growing phase. If a person is unwell, or convalescing, more hairs are in the resting phase. After chemotherapy, hair tends to come out by the handful. When normal, cyclical hair loss is greater than usual, the only indication of problem, without looking at the roots under a microscope, is that more hairs are caught in the comb each morning.

Alopecia is the technical name for hair loss. In *Alopecia totalis*, which has affected Princess Caroline of Monaco, all of the hair of the body is lost because of an auto-immune disease. In this condition, all the hair goes into the resting phase. When it drops out it is not replaced by any new, actively growing hair.

The good news for the Princess is that in more than 70 per cent of cases the condition is temporary and that within a couple of years the hair regrows and is very often thicker and curlier than it was before.

Treatments for *Alopecia totalis* are available, and it may, like other auto-immune diseases, respond to the use of powerful immuno-suppressant drugs. Unfortunately, these drugs have their own dangers and it is usually considered that the risks associated with what is only a possible benefit are too great to warrant their use.

In other cases of alopecia the hair loss is patchy; in these instances the chances of a complete recovery are even greater. The patches can occur in the beard as well as on the scalp. If the affected area is very small, injection into the skin of triamcinolone will sometimes encourage regrowth.

As with any auto-immune disease, alopecia is often a consequence of exposure to stress, either physical or mental. It can sometimes also be associated with other auto-immune diseases, in particular, those that induce thyroid dysfunction.

The most common form of alopecia is male-pattern baldness — the normal thinning of the hair — which starts in late adolescence and gains pace as the person grows older and which, despite its name, can also affect women.

When there is premature balding, there is usually a strong family history, and as the supposition is that male-pattern baldness is androgen-dependent, it is assumed that there is a relationship between baldness and virility. Apart from these two factors, there is no known precipitating cause and the only treatment that is licensed as being effective in a proportion of cases is the use of the drug minoxidal, Regaine, applied to the scalp. Regaine can now be bought over the counter.

SPLASH PICTURES

Linda McCartney, with her husband Paul, during her first public appearance after chemotherapy treatment

Try not to let the turkey share the fridge with a pudding

THE tragic oubreak of E coli 0157 in Lanarkshire, and the recently announced statistics of outbreaks of salmonella DT104, as well as the more common forms of this type of food poisoning, have come in time to remind everybody of the need to be careful when cooking the Christmas turkey and ham.

Uncooked meat should, whenever possible, be stored separately from prepared foods. But when — as in most households — there is only one refrigerator, the uncooked bird should be kept on the bottom shelf. This ensures that its bacteria-laden juices do not drip over the cheese and the remnants of yesterday's pudding.

Using the same kitchen saucepans, knives, forks and chopping boards for both cooked and uncooked meat is a sure way of spreading salmonella.

If the same knife is to be used to carve the joint as to cut the loaf, it must be thoroughly sterilised first. Kitchen surfaces are a regular haunt of organisms, which gather and reproduce in the debris lurking in any crack.

Surfaces should be swabbed down regularly with a disinfectant. The greatest dangers in the kitchen are the dishcloth and tea-towel. Both are admirable media in which bacteria can grow. Dishwashers may spoil your wine glasses and spot-mark silver, but they do sterilise the crockery and cutlery.

Medicinal mistletoe

THE only medical significance of mistletoe for most of us is the risk of catching herpes or glandular fever while kissing beneath it. Herbalists, however, have used mistletoe for centuries to treat high blood pressure and anxiety. But a potentially more important medical use has begun to be investigated.

Mistletoe, a toxic plant if swallowed accidentally, has been found to have cytotoxic activity — it interferes with cellular activity. This has led to the prescription of Iscador, the technical name for mistletoe extract, for a variety of malignant diseases. Iscador has been particularly favoured as a therapy by those doctors who are interested in alternative medicine. They welcome its apparent ability to inhibit the growth of malignant cells while also boosting the immune system.

At the Bristol Cancer Centre some of the patients are treated with Iscador prepared from mistletoe grown on oak trees, others with Iscador grown from apples. Some cancers were considered apple-sensitive, whereas the same sort of tumour in other patients needed the oak.

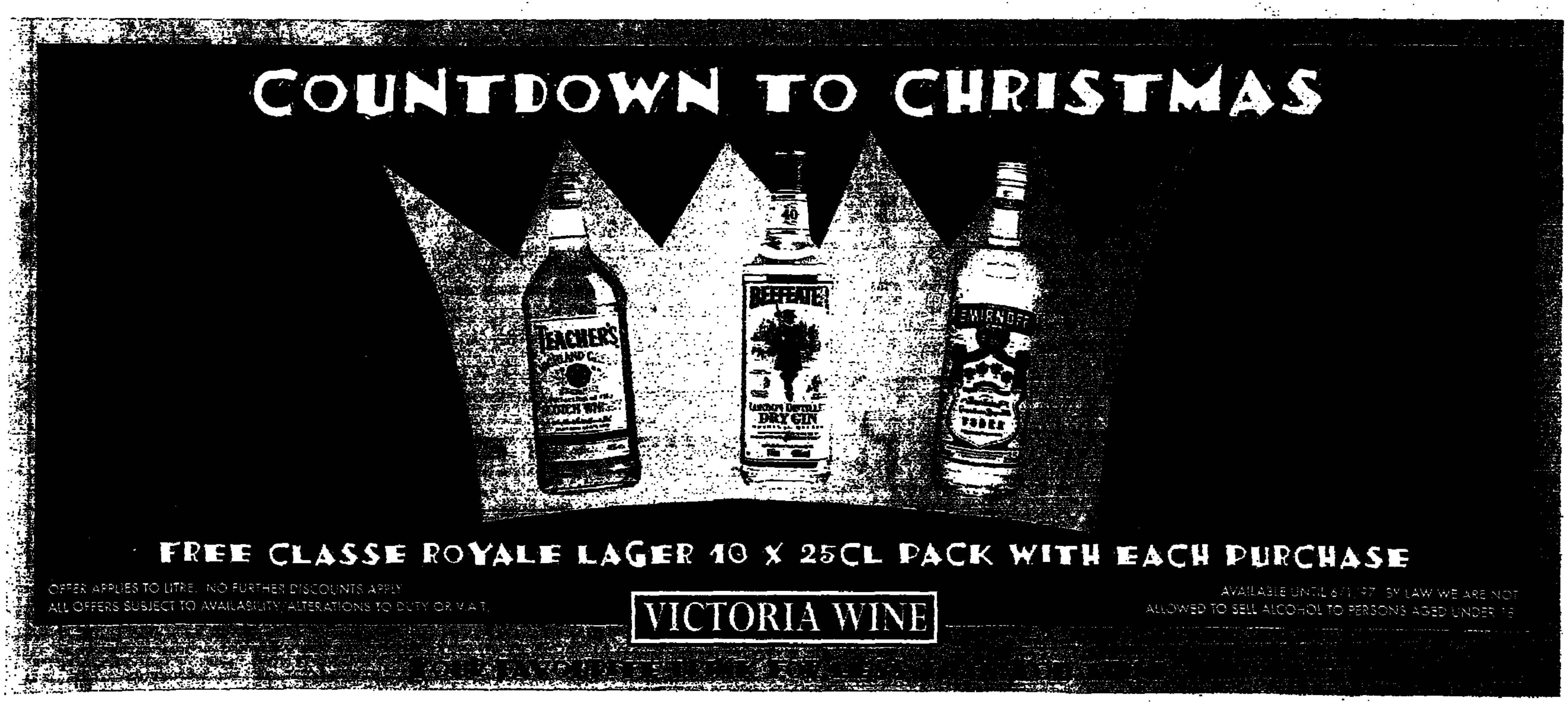
Sober facts of drink

A WORD of warning before Christmas. The belief that women become drunk faster than men — and sober up more slowly — is not another example of male chauvinism, but the statement of physiological fact.

Even women who are used to drinking and are of normal build lack an enzyme system as efficient as that of their male drinking companions. In men, some of the alcohol is metabolised in the stomach, whereas in women still in their reproductive years the whole of the process has to take place in the liver.

Alcohol stays longer in the stomach of men than women, in whom it rapidly passes through into the small intestine. Alcohol is more quickly absorbed through the wall of the intestine than that of the stomach, so that blood alcohol levels rise faster in women.

Changes in behaviour after alcohol are related to personality rather than to gender. Women tend to be less aggressive than men. Men who become abnormally aggressive when drinking are usually those who, when sober, are unusually tense.



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A tale of gastronomy in two cities

London has been hailed as having the best restaurants in the world, but New Yorker **Irwin Stelzer** says there is still room for improvement

This is a tale of two cities. In both, it is the best of times. New York's renaissance has already been widely recorded in the British press: crime down, streets cleaner, cash registers ringing. Wall Street bonuses bountiful by the standards of everyone except their recipients. And London's emergence as the hottest European city, swinging and prosperous, has been told in cover stories in mass-circulation *Newsweek* and in bibles of the ultra-chic, such as *Vanity Fair* and *Tatler*.

But Londoners are starting to overdo it a bit, gloating that their town has replaced New York as "the place where it is all happening. It has become the gastronomic centre of the world," according to the fortieth edition of the *Egon Ronay Hotel & Restaurant Guide*. (Paris, says Ronay, is "old hat".)

Indeed, the chef-as-celebrity and as multi-site entrepreneur is a new London phenomenon, with cookbook signings and guest appearances so frequent that one wonders whether these new stars have any time left to spend in their kitchens.

Fortunately, thanks to the new Zagat surveys of the restaurant scenes in both cities, we can separate brag fom fact. The Zagat restaurant guide persuaded more than 18,000 New Yorkers and 1,700 Londoners — the Brits being surveyed for the first time — to give their views, making its database the best available comparative representation of what is going on in the business in these cities.

For starters, forget the idea that Londoners are homebodies while New Yorkers are restaurant-goers without equal. In both towns the average respondent dines out 3.2 times per week (veritable stay-at-homes compared to Texans, Chicagoans and Los Angelenos, the latter probably unaware of what they are served, so long as they are seated at a prestigious table).

Forget, too, an outdated notion you may have that New Yorkers are out on the town primarily to entertain business buyers and clients, while Londoners leave their work at the office.

According to Zagat, only 26 per cent of the almost three million meals its respondents ordered in New York's restaurants were for business purposes, while 34 per cent of more than 280,000 meals recorded in the London survey were for business rather than merely in pursuit of a pleasurable day or evening on the town.

London's new claim to top rank is based on two basic facts. First, its restaurant scene is dominated by younger men and women: 57 per cent of its inveterate dining-out set is under the age of 40, compared with 47 per cent in New York. This is supposed to give London's chefs greater latitude to experiment with a variety of new and foreign dishes. As a result, "nowhere beats London for sheer diversity of cuisine", say Zagat's London editors.

> 'Many of the restaurants are copycat versions of New York operations'

Second, the booming restaurant scene has encouraged the opening of a spate of new establishments, providing London with a rapidly increasing choice of dining spots. For a while, gigantic emporia such as Quaglino's and L'Odéon were all the rage.

But Zagat notes that "Londoners are beginning to tire of their novelty value", and to prefer "more intimate newcomers" such as L'Oranger and Maison Novelli, leaving the mega-restaurants to tourists and weekenders.

Of course, and this the media frenzy over swinging London fails to mention, many of the new restaurants are copycat versions of successful New York operations. Thus, Londoners' infatuation with Thai cooking is attributable in good part to the opening here of New York's Vong, and a craze for Japanese cuisine is expected to follow the spring opening here of Nobu, of New York fame. And Harrods has opened a deli featuring latkes and pastrami on rye. Not exactly a British innovation.

That propensity to imitate is not the only reason London has a long way to go before being in a class with New York as a Mecca for fine dining. Not only do old-established spots such as The Four Seasons ("The classiest, most elegant expression of New York") and "21" ("still the quintessential men's club") continue to draw raves from their adherents, but new joints open at the rate of one per weekday. This year some 265 new restaurants opened in New York. And — an important advantage over London — most of these new places are affordable.

THOMAS HOPKER/MAGNUM

Not only do established spots in New York continue to draw rave reviews, but new places open at the rate of one a day. This year about 265 restaurants opened

The average bill in New York's restaurants this year came to a bit more than $29 (£18) per head; in London you can expect to shell out $41 on average. In the more expensive restaurants, New Yorkers also get a relative bargain: they pay an average of $65, whereas Londoners face a bill of $88. For the New York bargain-hunter there is still better news. In the 20 establishments classified by Zagat as the "best-value restaurants", the average cost per meal is a mere $9.79, down from $12.60 in 1992. The penny-wise Londoner, by contrast, forks out twice as much, $19.95, in the average "best-value" dining spot.

Susan Kessler, a cookbook author and Zagat co-ordinator who flits back and forth between the restaurant scenes in New York and London, says that New Yorkers who want "to go around the corner for great grilled chicken" and leave with their wallets intact have a huge advantage over their London counterparts, where good mid-priced restaurants are thin on the ground. And where good service is even harder to come by.

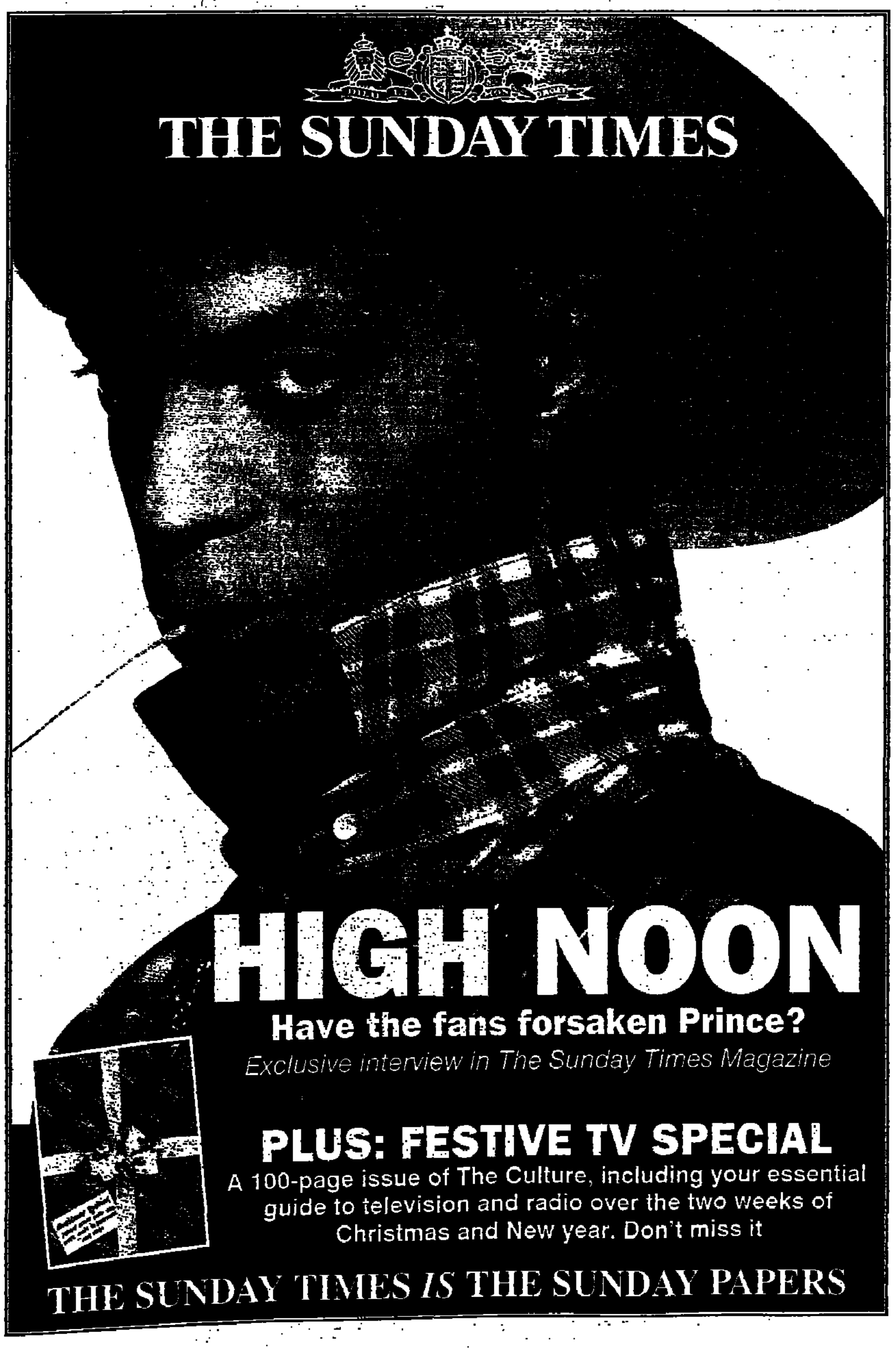
New Yorkers like to think of themselves as abused customers, saved by their own toughness from destruction by haughty maitres d', who often have trouble finding a place for newcomers even when faced with a blinding sea of white tablecloths.

That may be true in some places, but poor service is a far more common phenomenon in London, where restaurateurs are reluctant to spend money on training their staffs, many of whom come from Italy, where casualness has a meaning all its own.

This disregard for diners is encouraged by the distinctly un-New York practice, preferred by a majority of London diners, of adding a fixed percentage to every bill to cover tips, reducing both the prospect of a penalty for surliness and of any reward for courtesy.

So by any test — variety, price or service — New York beats London hands down. The restaurant industry in that city remains the world's leader. London, although still a distant second, is, however, catching up in the diversity of its offerings.

"The industry here is in its teething stage," says Mrs Kessler. A bit better service, an occasional welcoming smile from the maitre d', and reasonable prices might just enable it to mature into a rival to New York.



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Ineptitude, duplicity and plot

Magnus Linklater expects more bad behaviour in the Commons

Over the next few weeks we had better get used to the prospect of MPs behaving badly. Monday's evidence of deceit and double-dealing over pairing arrangements in the recesses of the House of Commons may be just an early skirmish in the battle for survival that will mark the run-up to the general election. Gentlemanly rules will be cast aside as the whips on both sides play out their sinister role as counter-intelligence agents in a war where no one can be trusted and everyone is a potential enemy. Nothing brings out the feral instinct in our representatives more than the experience of minority government and the danger of sudden defeat.

I doubt if we should be too shocked. Yesterday I listened to John Prescott's fulminations about Tory malpractice, and feared he was heading for a seizure, so massive was his indignation. Yet what happened smacked more of ineptitude than of duplicity. The Government was always going to win Monday's vote, given the abstention of the Ulster Unionists, so double-pairing was not only foolish and counterproductive, it was unnecessary. The subterfuge was bound to be discovered, and the outcome simply means that all future pairing arrangements will be cancelled, to everybody's inconvenience. The most that can be read into the affair is the evidence it offers of incompetence in the Tory Whips' Office. Following the resignation of David Willetts, this inspires little confidence in the way the party conducts its parliamentary business. As for Labour's behaviour, I'm not sure it was much better. There is evidence that pairing deals were being cancelled at the last minute, to the amazement of some Tories who thought they had the evening off. That is not how the system was meant to work.

At the same time, the outrage expressed by Labour MPs in Scotland over the way Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, commandeered an RAF plane to get him down from Inverness for the vote (he was "on ministerial duty" is the official explanation) seems somewhat confected — a debating point rather than a serious question of principle. Should a minister on a government trip pay for his return journey if he is called back to vote? At what stage does he become a party man rather than a representative of the State? How many angels can dance on the head of a pin?

These charges are evidence of frayed nerves rather than the corruption of power that Mr Prescott hinted at. And they are nothing new. Lloyd George, describing how Liberal MPs were tramping through the lobbies at all hours to keep Ramsay MacDonald in Downing Street, inveighed against the Government's unprincipled tactics. "While Liberal members are voting for the Labour Government," he complained, "Labour candidates have been put up against them throughout the constituencies, and Liberalism is being hunted, if possible, to death... When we support them, our support is received with sullen indifference. If we dare to criticise them, we are visited with a peevish resentment."

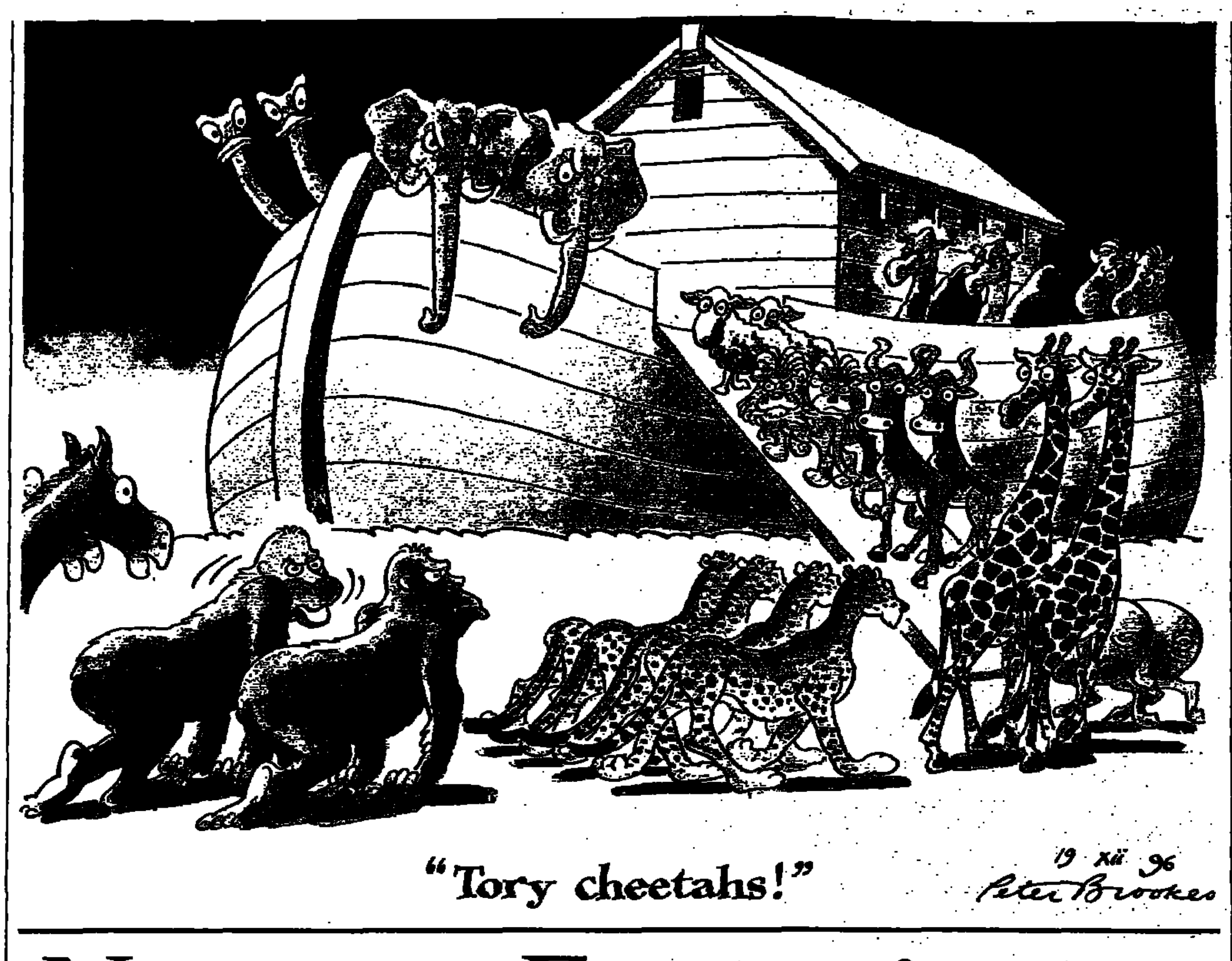
Who now remembers the fury directed against those two rebel Labour MPs, Desmond Donnelly and Woodrow Wyatt, in 1965 when they refused to be dragooned into supporting the Government's Bill to renationalise steel? Tempers flare, and men do strange things when a single vote is at stake. It was suspicion of a former breach of pairing etiquette that prompted Michael Heseltine, now so gravely commentating on these matters, to raise the Commons mace above his head during a debate on the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Bill in 1976, so threatening the innocent white hairs of Michael Foot with fearsome damage. What goaded Mr Heseltine into frenzy was the rumour that a Labour MP, Tom Pendry, had broken his pairing arrangement at the instigation of the Government's Chief Whip. It turned out not to be true, but in that instant, Mr Heseltine's Tarzan image was formed. Sir Julian Critchley, who was sitting behind him, remembers that it was the mild-mannered Jim (now Lord) Prior who leant forward and gently replaced the mace — the wrong way round.

> A broken pairing turned Heseltine into Tarzan

There is, of course, a line to be drawn between cheating and arm-twisting, whatever form the latter may take. Sir David Steel, whose Liberal contingent helped maintain James Callaghan's Government in power for two years from the spring of 1977, would argue that the whips were entirely justified in keeping an independent Irish MP well supplied with Guinness in Annie's Bar so that he would cast his vote the right way in the final vote of confidence that brought down the Government.

Less acceptable is the absurd business of forcing sick MPs into the House rather than allowing them to be paired. Sir Julian, who now, alas, needs a wheelchair to move about, remembers sitting in the Commons car park behind the late Jo Richardson MP, who was actually wired up to a piece of medical equipment. She died shortly afterwards. He views with dismay the prospect of being called out to vote this winter on a three-line whip because of "the cruelty of the pairing system".

But it would be hard to argue that any of this seriously undermines the process of government. It is part of the sideshow of politics, mere entertainment for the rest of us. And it will give our MPs something to keep them busy in the dying days of an administration. Would we really swap it for what the Scottish Whig Sir James Mackintosh called "the wise and masterly inactivity" that was once the principal characteristic of a somnolent Commons?



"Tory cheetahs!"

19 xii 96 Peter Brookes

Notes on Europe's past

If Shakespeare and Mozart are not correct enough for the euro, who is?

William Rees-Mogg

I keep a small bundle of foreign banknotes in an old wallet. In theory I dip into them when I revisit their country of origin; in practice they stay for years at a time in the drawer of my bedside table. My German notes are relatively up to date; they were issued in Frankfurt on August 1, 1991, so presumably they are still legal tender. They do however make me feel ashamed of my ignorance of German cultural history. The 100 DM note has a portrait of Clara Schumann, 1819-96. I know that I once read an article, or perhaps a programme note, about her. I take it that she was married to the composer, and started life as Clara something else, but I am not even sure of that. I have a strong feeling that she was herself a musician, a singer perhaps or a pianist. I have a less strong suspicion that she was at some point, apart from being Schumann's wife, if that is correct, some other composer's mistress, perhaps Liszt's. I may be libelling the memory of a chaste wife and mother. As she was famous enough to appear on the front of a high denomination note, I plainly ought to know more about her.

In fact, the Bundesbank, as always the best and wisest of central banks, gives a clue. On the back of the note there is a splendid 19th-century grand piano, though on strangely wobbly legs, together with five tuning forks. The hypothesis that Clara Schumann was a famous pianist must surely be correct. If I am inexcusably ignorant of her, I am even more ignorant of Balthasar Neumann 1687-1753 (50 DM). To judge by the clues on the back of that note, he was Germany's Christopher Wren, and designed a church somewhere — but where? — which looked like a cross between St Paul's Cathedral and the Brighton Pavilion. Of course all my readers, being people of broad European culture, know perfectly well who he was. I did not.

I was absolutely stumped by Annette von Droste-Hulshoff (20 DM), 1797-1848. She was a writer; both a quill pen and a book appear on the back of her note. She must have been a romantic; her hairstyle is what one might call Hollywood Regency, and her collar has more than a hint of Van Dyck. Was she someone's mistress? If so, he may have had a hard time of it. The Bundesbank portrait makes her look intense, bossy and soulful, a dangerous combination at any period of history.

I feel that I am doing disgracefully badly, with one faint recollection and two absolute misses. I come into my own only with the 10 DM note, and the agreeable, if somewhat gnomelike, features of Carl Friedrich Gauss, 1777-1855. I ought in principle to be better placed with German pianists, architects and writers than with mathematicians, but Gauss fascinates me, not so much for his mathematics, which I do not understand, but for being an infant prodigy who became an adult prodigy. He is well worth his place on a banknote.

I even know, or once knew, what a "Gauss" is. It is "the unit of intensity of a magnetic field, whose measurement is the product of a Weber at the distance of one centimetre". As I have not the least idea what a Weber is, that definition is of little use to me, but you may take it as correct because I looked it up in 1989 and am now repeating what I then wrote. As an infant prodigy, Gauss taught himself to calculate before he could talk. At the age of three he corrected an error in his father's wage calculations. When he entered the Brunswick Collegium Carolinum at the age of 15, he had already independently discovered Bode's law of planetary distances, the binomial theorum and the arithmetic-geometric mean.

Gauss made a comment on one of his seven proofs of the law of quadratic reciprocity which illuminates for the non-scientist the aesthetic element in scientific discovery. "It is characteristic of higher arithmetic that many of its most beautiful theorems can be discovered by induction with the greatest of ease, but have proofs that lie anywhere but near at hand . . . It is just the insight into the wonderful concatenation of truth in higher arithmetic that is the chief attraction for study and often leads to the discovery of new truths."

I am sure the Bundesbank must have put Goethe and Bach on notes of some denomination at some time. I suppose that Luther, who was the real maker of Germany, would not have wished, as a man of religion, to have his face printed on paper money. The difficulty of choosing such heroes is so great that the committee which designed the euro notes decided not to have portraits at all, but stuck with architectural drawings — and even these are of non-existent buildings.

The euro committee's first difficulty was that there are more EU countries than denominations of euro notes: 15 countries and only seven denominations. If there had been more denominations, one could have had Hans Christian Andersen for Denmark, Sibelius for Finland and Tintin for Belgium without causing offence to anyone else. If there were still only seven countries, as there once were, they could simply have chosen the greatest cultural figures for each country, Goethe for Germany, perhaps Voltaire for France — he is, after all, the most quintessentially French of all Frenchmen — Shakespeare for Britain, Dante, Leonardo da Vinci or Michelangelo for Italy, and suitable local members of the historic European cultural establishment for Belgium and Luxembourg. Mozart would have been out, as Austria was not then a member of the EEC.

It would never have been possible to choose political portraits. The political makers of Europe were a murderous bunch of thugs. Time has dimmed the horrors of the Norman Conquest, but William the Conqueror would not have been chosen for Anglo-Saxon banknotes. Julius Caesar massacred Gauls by the hundred thousand as part of his mission to spread Roman civilisation; Charlemagne killed his tens of thousands; Napoleon and Hitler killed by the million, though Napoleon did so in a purely professional and soldierly way. Even Winston Churchill would have Dresden argued against him.

Among the artists and scientists, one could not easily apply Crufts test of "best of breed", if only because Britain would win too many prizes. Greatest European dramatist, Shakespeare; greatest scientist, Newton; greatest biologist, Darwin; greatest historian, Gibbon; greatest economist, Smith; greatest biographer, Boswell; greatest woman writer, Austen. Britain would have no serious contenders in music or painting — Turner is not perceived as being on the level of Michelangelo. But we would have shortlisted candidates for greatest philosopher, novelist and romantic poet, at least in the modern world. In the ancient world it would be the Greeks first and the rest nowhere.

It was not however these considerations which were decisive. Despite the gallant feminism of the Bundesbank, there would have been many more heroes than heroines, and these heroes would by definition have been Dwems — Dead White European Males. Any Dwem is, on the face of it, politically incorrect, yet the main cultural icons of Europe are unavoidably European and white, are likely to be dead before they can safely be identified, and are male in the large majority. My own guess is that the aggressive energy of excess testosterone makes men both more likely to murder people and to create cultural masterpieces, but that itself is a politically incorrect hypothesis.

We know from an interview given by the Italian banker Dr Guido Crapanzano to the *Corriere della Sera*, the Milan newspaper, that the design committee was driven by political correctness. Shakespeare was blackballed, not just because he is a Dwem, but because the committee thought *The Merchant of Venice* anti-Semitic. Even more absurdly, Mozart went out because he wrote music for masons. Leonardo da Vinci was rejected on the grounds of his homosexuality, though freedom of lifestyle is usually part of political correctness.

There have certainly been ideologies much wickeder and more dangerous than the authoritarian feminist liberalism of political correctness. We would all rather live under pc rule than that of the Nazis, the Communists or any other aggressive totalitarian party. But silliness matters, and bossiness matters too. A correctness that rejects Mozart as unsuitable for a banknote because he wrote *The Magic Flute* goes too far. Perhaps the euro ought to have only one portrait on all denominations, that of Annette von Droste-Hulshoff herself. She may have been a wonderful German writer, but she looks the perfect symbol of the priggish interventionism that is taking over European culture and has already taken over American.

Revenge of the Incas

Matthew Parris on Peru's apartheid and Indian terror

The ferocity and grotesqueness of Peruvian terrorism are legendary in South America: so much so that it becomes difficult to separate fact from fiction. More notorious than Tupac Amaru, until now, has been the *Sendero Luminoso* (Shining Path), with its weird amalgam of peasant grievances and Maoist ideology. Now *Sendero*, one of the last communist revolutionary movements in the world, will become muddled, in Western minds, with Tupac Amaru, whose aims and structure are even more obscure.

Legend abounds. It is widely believed in South America that one of *Sendero*'s methods has included stuffing live chickens with explosive and sending them into markets, to be detonated by a timing device. In one fanciful version, a child was used as a human bomb, sent into the lobby of the Lima Hilton.

It is certainly true that the terrorists' methods have been cruel — deprived of ammunition, they have beaten villagers to death with rocks — but the overwhelming majority of their victims have been the rural peasantry and the security forces. Foreigners and tourists have only occasionally been the target. The terrorists' first aim has been to win over villages and regions to their cause. Communities loyal to the Government were "punished", sometimes *en bloc*. Government forces used to respond by "punishing" communities that sheltered the terrorists. As so often in South America, the little people have suffered at the hands of both sides. These are the descendants of the Inca Empire, which Spain utterly humiliated from the 16th century on. Some Latin Peruvians, and Indians too, see such movements as *Sendero* and Tupac Amaru as the Incas' revenge.

President Alberto Fujimori's Government has had considerable apparent success against the *Sendero*, whose leader has been captured and imprisoned. At some cost to the fragile welfare on which the poorest have relied, the Peruvian economy has been Thatcherised and invigorated. Tourists have been returning to Machu-Picchu and Cuzco. The province of Ayacucho, at one time almost a no-go area for government foces, has been returning to normal.

Nicholas Shakespeare, the son of a former British Ambassador in Lima, travelled in Ayacucho at its lowest ebb, and wrote extensively on Peruvian Indian terrorism. Tall and fair, he found himself feared as a suspected *Pistaco*, an alien spirit of whom the more remote Indian people live in mortal terror. According to folklore, *Pistacos* come from another world. To survive and breed they require a special oil which can only be derived from the crushed bodies of Indian people, which they come to the Andes to obtain. Shakespeare speculates that the roots of this folk wisdom may lie in some terrible tangle between native lore and stories about the arrival of the Spanish *conquistadores*, followed by mineral prospectors and speculators, in whose mines millions of Indias died.

From my own travels in Peru I have the strongest hunch that the problems are not ideological but ethnic. The ethnic divide in the nations that straddle the Andes from Ecuador to Chile is one of the best-kept secrets in modern history. Because the inferior status of the South American Indians has never required the backing of law, nobody speaks of apartheid. The mistake the South African whites made was to write it down. The ruling class in Peru are whites too, but we forget that they are not the only inhabitants.

Only Latin South Americans can afford to visit Europe in any number, and it is their culture we tend to see when we fly in to the major cities and towns of the Andes and Pacific coast. The millions of Indian Peruvian, Ecuadorian and Bolivian citizens are almost invisible to international view. Their economic status is inferior, and in Lima you will see almost no full-blooded Indians in any but subservient occupations — or unemployed and encamped, ankle-deep in urine and litter, in the graffiti-daubed waste of corrugated iron and makeshift houses spreading out around the old city. In the countryside, almost everyone is of Indian blood.

Unlike the Red Indians in North America or the Aborigines in Australia, the descendants of the Inca Empire may have been subjugated, but they have not been marginalised, and their culture has lost none of its vigour. Recent Peruvian Governments have made some attempt to emancipate and involve them, but the task is huge.

Agriculture, on which most of these *campesinos* rely, has not kept up with industrial and commercial Peru. Neither the *Sendero* nor Tupac Amaru has ever enjoyed mass support among the *campesinos* — that must be emphasised — but like the IRA in apparently peace-loving Catholic Ireland, they are able to find shelter.

As a young Indian once told me, nobody likes the Government in Lima. Nobody supports the terrorists either. But some people "understand" them. Nobody in Peru will be supporting Tupac Amaru. But, up in the Andes and down in the slums of Lima, there will be some who understand.

Carte noire

HEAVY PADDING is in order for Lord Gowrie today, as he appears before Parliament's equivalent of the parish fête committee: its Gilbert and Sullivan fans. They are livid with him for what they suspect to be his and the Arts Council's condescending attitude towards giving grants to Britain's G&S companies, most notably the D'Oyly Carte, which is desperately short of cash.

Iain Sproat, the spreading Minister of State at the heritage department, has ordered Gowrie in for a pasting at the bidding of an *ad hoc* Commons group of Gilbert & Sullivan enthusiasts, including former Tory chairman Sir Norman Fowler, former Home Secretary Kenneth Baker, the Dames Knight and Fookes, and Peter Brooke, MP for Westminster. In between flicking pellets at Gowrie's lah-di-dah tastes, their aim is to secure the cultural credibility of G&S.

Anthony Steen, the MP for South Hams and leader of the group, says of Gowrie's mob: "I suspect the plain truth is that the Arts Council doesn't really approve of such frivolity and would rather we saw Wagner and left grimly contemplating the 12-tone scale."

Sir Michael Bishop, chairman of the D'Oyly Carte is optimistic: "I think it will be what diplomats call a 'full and frank discussion'."

Jungle drums

LABOUR'S determination to keep the shutters down around its shadowy Audience Participation Unit, extends even to the families of its key members. Take Phil Royal, candidates' liaison officer, and the man behind the fax exhorting Labour Party members to vote for Tony Blair in Radio 4's personality of the year poll. His son Marc is a leading jungle musician.

For the uninitiated, jungle is an increasingly popular form of fast menacing dance music. Young Royal goes by the stage name of T-Power, has released two albums, and is probably best known for his track "Police State".

Royal Sr has gone to ground since the weekend's fiasco, and calls to him about his son's musical career are angrily dismissed by Labour. T-Power's media deflections, however, need more work. A male South London voice answered his telephone. I asked for Royal. "Yeah, I'll just get him. Who's asking?" "*The Times*." "Oh, there's no one by the name of Marc Royal here. No, no one I can think of by that name."

T-Power's record company was more decisively evasive. "T-Power's father doesn't work for Labour," they tell me. "His father is dead."

No fun

SENATOR Ted Kennedy's depressing slide into pensionable sobriety continues with news of a very tame performance at his office Christmas party. There were no blue jokes, he and his wife Vicki turned up as Dalmatians and left early.

In previous years, the senator's office parties were raucous, pants-down affairs. He would show up in costumes ranging from Elvis to George Bush, complete with White House dog Millie. The best, however, was when he came dressed as Barney the dinosaur and insisted on being addressed as "Tyrannosaurus Sex".

All too steady, Teddy

Love lost

PARTY HELL down at the Banqueting House in Whitehall on Tuesday evening, as Diana, Princess of Wales, and Anna Pasternak, author of the heavy-breather *Princess in Love*, passed each other at the entrance to the *Sunday Times* Christmas party.

To attend the *Sunday Times* do, Diana had skipped the birthday party for Dominic Lawson, Editor of *The Sunday Telegraph*, whose wife Rosa Monckton is a friend of hers. But as she left, she must have wished she hadn't. She found herself facing Pasternak, who takes up the story in her own gamey style: "I was coming in and she was leaving. We had very penetrating eye contact. This wasn't the first time I'd seen her though. We were once in neighbouring basins at Daniel Galvin's hairdressers. She didn't know it but I had the proof of *Princess in Love* in the bag at my feet."

Bussell: graceful

● *A broken leg affected Darcey Bussell's performance of* Cinderella *at the Royal Opera House on Tuesday. Just as she placed her foot on a low stool to try on Prince Charming's glass slipper, one of its legs snapped. Jeremy Isaacs, general director of the Opera House, frowned from his seat. Gallantly the prince slipped his hand underneath to steady the stool, and Bussell was shod.*

P·H·S

هكذا من الأصل

Revenge of the Incas

Matthew Parris

GOLDEN ECONOMY

The best Tory message: don't let Labour destroy it

If only politics were as predictable as economics. Nobody who has been closely following developments in the British economy in the past few years should have been surprised by yesterday's vintage crop of statistics on jobs, wages and retail sales. Yet the Government, which has long counted on prosperity and economic confidence to save it from electoral perdition, is plumbing new depths of unpopularity. Why?

First, there is the possibility that people do not yet feel the prosperity which the figures increasingly reveal, or alternatively that voters believe the recovery is somehow unsound or unsustainable. Pollsters find many people saying that Britain is still in recession. Wait just a few more months, say the optimists, and rising incomes will percolate into people's pockets; the political landscape will then be transformed.

The flaw in this argument is that people are already starting to believe that this recovery is real. Consumer confidence is back towards the levels last seen in the *prosperous late 1980s. House* prices and, more importantly, housing transactions are rising. Unemployment is dropping in voters' perceptions of the most critical issues facing the country. Why should voters react any differently to good economic news in the next four months?

The rise in consumer confidence has been matched by improvements in business and financial confidence — so much so that the biggest economic problem facing the Treasury and the Bank of England at present is the excessive strength of the pound. There are always good reasons to worry about economic recovery being blown off course by inflation, low investment or trade imbalances. At present, however, there is less reason for such concern than usual, partly because of the structural transformation of the British economy during the Thatcher years. This is not just the view of the business community. The improvement in Britain's economic structure is admitted even by many politicians on the centre Left.

Another possible explanation for the gap between politics and economics is the Government's failure to take credit for managing the economy in a reasonably competent way. John Major became Chancellor as a deep recession was starting and he made matters much worse by joining the ERM. His image has been identified with the hair shirt ever since. In the four years of steady recovery that have followed Britain's exit from the ERM, Mr Major could have wrought for himself and his Government a new, more optimistic image, better suited for a period of economic growth. He failed to do this, partly because of the distracting disunity in his party and partly perhaps because it took him so long to recognise the collapse of his policies on Black Wednesday as a deliverance not a disaster. It is still hard, however, to believe that, after four years, the debacle of Black Wednesday remains dominant in voters' minds.

What, then, is left to console Mr Major and the Tories? Only perhaps the great bugbear of ruling politicians through the ages. When a disaster strikes the country, people are inclined to blame the Government. But once a great issue begins to seem less troubling, the people do not thank the Government. Instead the issue, in this case unemployment, simply begins to slip from voters' minds. This is one reason why Churchill lost the postwar election and perhaps why Labour Governments have usually been elected during periods of optimism and prosperity rather than in the depth of economic slumps. To win the election, it will not be enough for the Tories to say that Britain is doing well and that Mr Major deserves at least some of the credit. They will also have to persuade the public that prosperity is too precious and fragile to allow it to be put into Labour's untried hands. In this sense at least, the Tories will inevitably and understandably be drawn into a negative campaign, designed to spread fear about the economic horrors Labour might perpetrate.

ANNAN OF THE UN

After a risible selection process, a rising agenda

Following a squalid set of political machinations, the United Nations finally has a new Secretary-General, Kofi Annan. First, Boutros Boutros Ghali reneged on his pledge to serve only five years in office and had to be removed by an American veto. Then Washington, and the other four permanent members of the Security Council, accepted the absurd argument that his successor could only be an African. Finally, Jacques Chirac threw in a French language proficiency test for good measure. It is a marvel that any candidate emerged at all.

Allowing for the extraordinarily small pool of talent from which the UN permitted itself to pick, Mr Annan is a respectable if uninspiring choice. As Under Secretary-General for peacekeeping operations he has acquired a reputation for *quiet competence.* In a relaxed press conference yesterday he made clear that he wanted to do more than his predecessor to streamline bureaucracy and win the confidence of member states. He already has the confidence of the United States. A more dynamic figure such as Sadako Ogata, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, would have been welcome; but it seems that capacity to excel in this post never entered the job specification. In the future such a farce would be less likely if the Secretary-General served just one non-renewable seven-year term.

Mr Annan faces a vast agenda. His first task is to prevent the UN's already chronic financial position slipping into outright bankruptcy. In the very short term this means clearing the backlog of dues, over $2 billion strong, owed by members. More than half of this total involves the United States. Beyond that, an entirely new system of subscriptions that recognises the present economic circumstances of the participants involved, must be finalised. In practice this means a sharp reduction in the proportion contributed by Washington and an appropriate increase from Asia, especially Japan. The US Congress has made repayment of its own debt contingent on a comprehensive overhaul of the bloated bureaucracy and petty corruption that has long been associated with the UN. This is a crucial objective. But Mr Annan's role must be far more than downsizer-in-chief on behalf of Washington. Fundamental questions about the purpose of the United Nations in the aftermath of the Cold War exist but have not been addressed. That failure is at the core of the UN's troubles.

There has been an explosion in demands *on peacekeeping. In 1988 the cost of such* deployments was $230 million and some 80 per cent of that expenditure went on policing disputes between states. By 1995 some $3 billion was spent and over 80 per cent was concentrated on internal conflicts within states. These included an increasing number of cases — such as the shambles in Somalia — where the UN took over after the collapse of the country itself and in the absence of any meaningful national government.

That dramatic turnaround has placed unanticipated burdens on those providing troops. This has been the chief cause of friction between Washington and Mr Boutros Ghali. A further challenge lies in adapting an essentially diplomatic body to an international order increasingly dominated by economics. The result is a simmering dissatisfaction with the present structure. It falls to Mr Annan to take on the issues that his predecessors have left unresolved.

RED CROSS BUNGLE

Food parcels are an inappropriate means of protest

During the Second World War, the Red Cross dispatched over 20 million food parcels to British and Commonwealth prisoners of war in Germany and Japan. For hundreds of thousands of men, these lifelines came to be the personification of the Red Cross; much of the current goodwill and support for this century-old organisation dates back to the debt of gratitude owed by so many to those who provided food and relief in those dark days.

Now the Red Cross is again distributing food parcels packed in Britain, but this time they are going to refugees and asylum-seekers, people in our own midst. There is a fierce domestic campaign underway against the Government's new asylum legislation. Many left-wing groups have chosen the proposed new regulations, under which social security funds can be denied to certain asylum seekers, as a focus for agitation. For the Red Cross, a scrupulously neutral humanitarian organisation, to allow itself to be linked to such a campaign in Britain is a mistake. Red Cross food parcels are an inefficient response: asylum-seekers are generally clustered in known centres and hostels. But, more importantly, they are an inappropriate response; it is damaging for the Red Cross to equate the refugees' condition with that of POWs and to allow the Government to be portrayed as a captor holding people in hungry confinement against their will.

The Red Cross generally operates in areas of extreme difficulty and danger. Its brave workers and volunteers sometimes pay a heavy price: in Chechnya this week five women and one man were murdered in their *beds by masked gunmen* who broke into a house before dawn. The six, drawn from five different Western countries, had been helping to run a hospital ten miles from Grozny. Their senseless murder is proof that terrorists no longer respect neutrality nor humanitarian motives. Indeed, the very attempt to relieve suffering often makes targets of those attempting to do so.

Britain, and *The Times* in particular, has given strong support to the Red Cross, both in its routine but vital volunteer work here at home and *in its relief, tracing and inter*cession activities abroad. The British branch of the Red Cross came into being largely as a result of an appeal launched in this newspaper. The sincerity of today's Red Cross is not in doubt. But its leaders should ask themselves whether their efforts should not better be directed at helping the refugees in the countries from which they fled. The Refugee Council can more appropriately solicit funds to support asylum-seekers, while political lobbies can take up the *challenge to the Government's proposals.*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Flaws in plan for bad drivers to pay

From Mr Michael Gould

Sir, Your report, "Drivers 'should pay bill for crash victims' " (December 12), explains how the Law Commission proposes that negligent drivers should be singled out to pay for their victims' treatment by the National Health Service.

The illogicality of this proposal is twofold. First, why should only the NHS be *allowed to recoup costs incur*red as a result of an accident? Why should not the fire services and police be allowed to charge for their involvement? Indeed, why should not other road users suffering delay and inconvenience be allowed to charge for their losses?

Second, why should motorists be singled out? No one intends to be negligent. The negligent motorist is no more blameworthy than the person who requires treatment after falling down his own stairs.

In my view the logical extension of the Law Commission's proposal is that the National Health Service be privatised. Such a policy may be perfectly acceptable to the present Government but would be a strange policy for the Law Commission to pursue.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL GOULD
(Senior lecturer), Law School,
Staffordshire University,
Leek Road,
Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire.
December 13.

From Mr John C. Banks

Sir, It is proposed that the NHS be able to claim an estimated £120 million per year in compensation from those who cause road traffic accidents, of which £20 million to £30 million would be swallowed up in costs of administering the system.

Of course the money would actually be recovered from the insurers and it is reasonable to assume that they would incur similar costs. These costs would, in turn, be recovered through increased premiums, paid not only by the guilty but by all of us.

Thus the NHS would be enriched by about £100 million at a cost to the motorist of about £150 million, paid out of taxed income. By my estimation, this represents about £200 million of untaxed income.

As an alternative we could give the NHS the £100 million with no additional administration cost, financed out of general taxation, and therefore paid by all taxpayers out of their un*taxed income. Nearly all motorists are* taxpayers, and relatively few taxpayers are non-motorists.

The proposed scheme is an unbelievably inefficient way of funding the NHS, but a wonderful way of funding administrators and the legal profession.

Yours faithfully,
J. C. BANKS,
23 Dovedale Road,
West Bridgford, Nottingham.
December 12.

From Mrs Jane Hodges

Sir, As well as having drivers pay for the injuries sustained by road accident victims, what about making those suffering from *self-inflicted* ones pay too? I would include among these smokers and abusers of drugs or alcohol.

Yours faithfully,
JANE HODGES,
18 Gloucester Road,
Walsall, West Midlands.
December 14.

From Mr John Lomas

Sir, You carried the report about transferring the cost of traffic accident injuries from the NHS to the insurers on the same day as a report on the major traffic jam caused in London by a lorry colliding with a gantry at the entrance to the Blackwall Tunnell.

Is there not a case for the haulage companies to pay for delays caused by this sort of incident?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LOMAS,
Spratton House, Chapel Lane,
Newborough, Staffordshire.
December 13.

Straw poll

From Mr Charles Bowerman

Sir, I was intrigued to read Mr John Cryer's letter (December 11) on inconsiderate drivers of farm vehicles. I have just taken a tractor (with visible *number plates) to our local dealer for* a service. Naturally I pulled over whenever possible to let following traffic past, and was interested to note that of 44 vehicles only 16 drivers saw fit to acknowledge my action, represented thus: the one motorcycle; eight out of nine lorries; not one of the three white vans; and only seven of the 31 cars.

Is the ability to show common courtesy part of the HGV and motorcycle licence tests, or is it simply that many car and van drivers pay so little attention to other road users that they were simply unaware of my actions?

Yours faithfully,
C. H. BOWERMAN,
6 Swan Cottages, Pewsey, Wiltshire.
December 12.

With the postal delays that often occur at this time of year, it is useful, where possible, for letters to be faxed to 0171-782 5046. Please give contact telephone numbers.

'Treachery' of the Duke of Windsor

From Mr Philip Ziegler

Sir, Mr Michael Ryan's letter of December 9 [see also articles, December 4, 10] accepting as established truth the wilder assertions of stray German functionaries, confirms his determination to put the blackest possible interpretation on anything the unfortunate Duke of Windsor said or did.

To take, for instance, the Duke's *alleged betrayal of Allied battle plans* to the Germans in the winter of 1940: this rests on the unsubstantiated gossip of Count Zech, German Minister to The Netherlands, who cited the Duke as the source of information about Allied troop movements in the event of a German invasion of Belgium. Zech gave no indication of how he came by this intelligence, nor to whom the Duke might have been talking.

The "information" which the Duke was supposed to have provided was in *fact the direct opposite of what he* must have known to have been the truth. From this one might deduce that the Duke was taking part in a cunning deception operation. More plausibly, one might dismiss the whole story as a mare's nest. I do not see how it can be read as proving that he was a traitor.

Nor did the Duke express "pro-Hitler sentiments" to the American journalist, Fulton Oursler; he argued that Britain could not win the war and that a "Pax Americana" was the best *hope for humanity. Though his atti*tude was defeatist and, as it turned out, misguided, it was not treasonable.

The new releases from the Public Record Office do not confirm in "extraordinary" or any other detail the allegations as to the Duke's treachery made in Mr Ryan's lamentable Channel 4 programmes. I am sorry to disappoint him, but nor would the contents of the royal archives.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP ZIEGLER,
22 Cottesmore Gardens, W8.
December 9.

From Mr Tom Hawkins

Sir, If only the "vital role of *The Times*" in the Abdication affair had been directed to the earth-shattering events then taking place in Germany, you might well have had something to crow about ("Edward, Mrs Simpson and *The Times*", December 10).

What a pity Geoffrey Dawson did not use his "fluent and pitiless pen" to expose the growing threat of Hitler, and his preparations for war. Whilst happy to make a pompous meal of a comparatively trivial piece of our history, Dawson deliberately suppressed reports from Germany which might well have compelled Baldwin and the other appeasers to face facts.

The engine that drove the Abdication was on the wrong line.

Yours,
T. H. HAWKINS,
32 Virginia Beeches,
Virginia Water, Surrey.

From Mr John W. Heren

Sir, The proof of *The Times* leader of December 3, 1936, was delivered by me to No 10 Downing Street at 10.30pm on the previous evening. In my presence, Mr Stanley Baldwin penned some marginal comments and the proof was returned to Printing House Square by 11.15pm. The presses rolled at 11.45pm.

I delivered the proof by taxi.

Yours etc,
JOHN W. HEREN,
Rowan Garth, Saint Ives Road,
Somersham, Cambridgeshire.

Human rights court

From Lord Alexander of Weedon, QC, Chairman of Justice

Sir, Your excellent leading article today on the Saunders judgment in the European Court of Human Rights prompts two further thoughts.

First, the judgment is a timely and salutary reminder that continental European institutions can often make a worthwhile civilising contribution to maintaining and enhancing our own national values.

Secondly, our citizens still have to *take their claims under the European* Convention to the Court in Strasbourg. Why? Because successive governments have persistently declined to incorporate the Convention directly into our own law. So our own judges are powerless to rule on it.

The time has surely at last come when we should patriate what is now *de facto* our most important constitutional document and trust our own judges to apply it.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT ALEXANDER,
Chairman of Council,
Justice,
59 Carter Lane, EC4.
December 18.

Workplace bullying

From Lord Monkswell

Sir, The House of Lords agrees with Mr Graham Allen, MP, that employers should take more positive action against workplace bullying (letter, December 9).

Last week they gave an unopposed second reading to my Dignity at Work Bill. The aim of the Bill is to prevent bullying at work by requiring employers to develop anti-bullying policies and practices through discussion with their employees. If bullying does oc*cur employers would have to take ef*fective action to resolve the problem or be liable to pay compensation to the victim.

Bullying at work is bad for victims, bad for business and bad for society. It costs us all money in lost productivity, extra unemployment benefit and costs to the NHS, apart from the price victims pay. I hope everyone will agree that action is needed to reduce the burden bullies at work place on us all.

Yours sincerely,
MONKSWELL
(Chairman, Campaign Against
Bullying At Work),
House of Lords.
December 9.

Countryside clutter

From Mr Anthony Steen, MP for South Hams (Conservative)

Sir, The Council for the Protection of Rural England is right to suggest that a rising tide of clutter could kill the countryside (report, December 9), but we should not conclude from this that in order to preserve the countryside it needs to be kept as a museum piece.

The country is a dynamic organism which only prospers if people living and working there have the opportunity to thrive. In many rural areas, this Government's desire to deregulate signposting has already proved important for those enterprises off the beaten track, including tourist attractions whose survival depends upon their whereabouts being known.

In this way the innocuous little brown directional sign has already helped to create new job opportunities in areas such as Devon; but those in charge of county councils must balance the long-overdue liberalisation of restrictive tourist-sign policy with a sensitivity to what is clearly not acceptable.

The suggestion by Jonathan Dimbleby, the CPRE's president, that the accumulation of small changes will inevitably result in the suburbanisation of the countryside is, I believe, unfounded.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY STEEN,
House of Commons.
December 11.

Saving St Pancras

From Mr G. M. Wedd

Sir, I support the plea from the Victorian Society that the historic buildings at St Pancras Station be given the maximum statutory protection (letter, December 6; see also letters, November 29, December 3).

After many years in the doldrums, the buildings of the Gothic Revival are now valued as they should be, and I do not suppose that the magnificent Scott front of St Pancras is under any immediate threat. But public taste is fickle, and one can easily forsee a time when people are pointing out, quite correctly, that buildings like this are not economical to run and, being old, are expensive to maintain and repair; and that the building provides only a fraction of the lettable floor space that would be provided by a modern office block, rising no higher than Scott's pinnacles.

When that time comes, every layer of protection will be necessary. One only has to think of the Gothic Revival buildings we lost last time fashion turned against them.

The eastern range of the new British Library building has a roof-line deliberately lowered to afford a view of St Pancras from the library courtyard. It would be a pity if this ever offered only a view of a 2010 office block.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE WEDD,
The Lodge, Church Hill,
High Littleton, Somerset.

Socks washed?

From Mrs Jackie Morrisey

Sir, Yesterday I very much enjoyed an infant school's Christmas production. My delight was compounded when, at the end, the Headmaster stood up to thank everyone and remarked that as the huge, beautifully costumed cast filed past, the dozen or so little shepherds had moved him to coin a new collective noun: a nativity of teatowels.

Yours faithfully,
JACKIE MORRISEY,
2 Codrington Place, Clifton, Bristol.
December 13.

Cash crisis

From Mr Chris Olding

Sir, Mr R. D. Cohen (letter, December 13) is concerned that there is no keyboard symbol for the new euro.

May I suggest (=

The open bracket would signify that we don't know where it will end and the equals sign, unresolved, that we don't know what it will be worth.

Yours faithfully,
C. J. OLDING,
Stonecroft, Rigton Hill,
North Rigton, Leeds, West Yorkshire.
December 13.

Painless surgery pioneers praised

From Professor T. E. J. Healy

Sir, President Yeltsin's recent and much publicised cardiac surgery would have been quite impossible, indeed a mere fantasy, had it not been for the unsung but very real skill and dedication of his anaesthetists. It now seems accepted that the anaesthetist, though the guardian of the patient's life, should be ignored and remain in obscurity.

One hundred and fifty years ago it was not so. On December 19, 1846, ether was used for the first time for anaesthesia in Britain — by Mr James Robinson in London for a dental extraction and by Dr William Scott in Dumfries for an amputation. Two days later, Robert Liston, a famous London surgeon, carried out an amputation of the leg above the knee: again, ether was used.

Much was still to be learnt before the skills of the anaesthetist would become, as it too often seems, so little esteemed. We need occasionally to remember the horror and desolation of conscious patients strapped to operating tables undergoing amputation of limbs or, perhaps, the ripping open of their abdomens as, in the case of women patients, for removal of ovaries. We can, I sense, hear even yet the screams of those who suffered, if we listen hard enough.

We live today in the expectation that surgery will be pain-free and that we may sleep safely and awaken protected by the anaesthetist. Let anaesthesia's 150th anniversary acclaim those who pioneered it and those who continue its advance. The wonders of surgery stand on the shoulders of anaesthesia.

Yours faithfully,
T. E. J. HEALY
(President, Section of Anaesthesia,
The Royal Society of Medicine),
The University of Manchester,
Department of Anaesthesia,
Manchester Royal Infirmary,
Oxford Road, Manchester.
December 18.

Rackham and Ratty

From Mr Derek Hudson

Sir, Arthur Rackham's drawing of Rat and Mole which you reproduced to accompany your report (December 9) on the near extinction of the water-vole was the last drawing he ever made. He was very ill with cancer in 1939 and had great difficulty in completing *his illustrations for The Wind in the Willows*, which meant much to him.

Having finished the drawing with difficulty Rackham discovered there were no oars in the boat and, though his daughter tried to persuade him that it didn't matter, he insisted on putting them in. Then he lay back exhausted and said: "Thank goodness, that is the last one". And so it proved, in every sense.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK HUDSON,
7 Churchill Road, Guildford, Surrey.

Young as you feel

From Mr Donald Cross

Sir, Feeling reasonably spry until a few moments ago, I have just read about the tragic death of a 62-year-old man (News in brief, later editions, December 17). In June I celebrated my 71st birthday. It was a terrible shock, seeing your report, to realise that I have been "elderly" for little short of an entire decade.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD CROSS,
9 Furze Croft,
Furze Hill, Hove, East Sussex.
December 17.

Mind over matter

From Dr Jonathan Olney

Sir, It was with great sadness that I learned of the death of Dr Harold Edwards (Obituary, December 13).

He was an extremely popular Dean at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, and superbly good at demonstrating clinical signs to a large student audience with exactly the right degree of showmanship that neurologists are supposed to have.

I will always remember the occasion when a student left his motorcycle in Dr Edwards's parking space, the only named space in the medical school garage. The Dean simply drove his Rolls-Royce motor car over the offending vehicle. This was widely accepted as the only possible course of action.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN OLNEY
(Consultant neuroradiologist),
Old Mill House,
Cowfold Road, Bolney, Sussex.

Head gear

From Mrs Nicolas Chisholm

Sir, My husband's Christmas present this year from his pupils was a yellow hard hat "for fortitude".

Could this be a modern replacement for the mortar board and would Mrs Gillian Shephard approve?

Yours sincerely,
AURIOL CHISHOLM,
The Headmaster's House,
The Yehudi Menuhin School,
Stoke d'Abernon,
Cobham, Surrey.
December 16.

هكذا من الأصل

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 18: The Duke of Edinburgh, Captain General Royal Marines, today attended a Luncheon for past and present Colonels Commandant at Admiralty House, London SW1.

His Royal Highness, Fellow, the Royal Society, this afternoon chaired a meeting of the Project Science Board of Patrons at Buckingham Palace.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 18: The Duke of York, Colonel-in-Chief, The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's) this morning visited Battalion locations in the Closed Border Area, Hong Kong.

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited the Tsing Ma suspension bridge.

The Duke of York afterwards visited Chek Lap Kok airport.

His Royal Highness this evening visited the Headquarters of the Hong Kong Sea Cadet Corps.

The Duke of York later attended a Dinner given by the Governor at Government House.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 18: The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Dragoon Guards, this morning received Lieutenant-Colonel Mark Faulkner upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer and Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Cary upon assuming the appointment.

His Royal Highness, President, Business in the Community, afterwards received reports from business leaders who have taken part in the "Seeing is Believing" programme at St James's Palace.

The Prince of Wales this evening attended the Olympia International Showjumping Championships at Olympia, London SW5.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 18: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, The Friends of the Elderly, this afternoon attended the Society's Annual Service of Thanksgiving and Carols at St Michael's Church, Chester Square, London SW1.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Patron of the Ely Cathedral Trust Order of St Etheldreda, will attend a luncheon at the Deanery, Ely Cathedral, at 12.30.

Princess Margaret will attend a gala concert given by John Dankworth and Cleo Laine at the Stables Theatre, Wavendon, Milton Keynes, at 8.00 in aid of the refurbishment of the theatre.

Service luncheon

Royal Marines
The Duke of Edinburgh, Captain General Royal Marines, was present at a luncheon for Colonels Commandant Royal Marines held yesterday at Admiralty House. Major-General John Grey, Representative Colonel Commandant, presided.

Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin, KG, Life Colonel Commandant, and Major-General David Pennefather, Commandant General, were among the guests.

Birthdays today

Sir Antony Buck, QC, former MP, 68; Mr Ross Buckland, chief executive, Unigate, 54; Mr Upamanyu Chatterjee, novelist, 37; Mr Timothy Eggar, MP, 45; Brigadier L.J. Harris, cartographer, 86; Sir Brian Hill, president, Higgs and Hill, 64; Mr Steven Isserlis, cellist, 38; Mr Syd Little, comedian, 54; Mr Tim Parks, novelist, 42; Major-General R. Bernard Penford, 80.

The Marquess of Queensberry, 70; Mr David Rowe-Beddoe, chairman, Welsh Development Agency, 59; Sir David Rowe-Ham, former Lord Mayor of London, 61; Professor Christopher Smout, Historiographer Royal in Scotland, 63; Lord Weir, 65.

Lieutenancy of Staffordshire

The Earl of Lichfield, of Shugborough, Stafford, has been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Staffordshire.

School news

Mill Hill School Foundation
The Court of Governors, the School and the Old Millhillians Club join in offering their warmest wishes and congratulations to Dr J.S. Whale, Headmaster 1944-51, on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

Sherborne School
The Headmaster of Sherborne School is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Christopher Greenfield as the Principal of the International Study Centre from September, 1997. Dr Greenfield, currently Headmaster of Sidcot School, takes over from Mr Ralph Mowat who retires after 17 years.

William Hulme's Grammar School
The Governors are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Bryan Purvis, as Head Master of William Hulme's Grammar School in succession to Mr Patrick Briggs. Currently the Head of Altrincham Grammar School for Boys, Mr Purvis will take up his appointment on September 1, 1997: Mr Briggs leaves to become the Principal of Kolej Tuanku Ja'afar, Malaysia, in April 1997: Mr Morris Loveland, the Second Master, will be Acting Head in the interim.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.D. Beadon and Miss C.E. Houston
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of the late Major Dacres Beadon, and of Mrs Rachel Garrett, of London, and Claire, elder daughter of Mr William Houston, of Stavanger, Norway, and Mrs Susan Houston, of Uppingham, Rutland.

Mr D.H.G. Bennett and Miss J.S. Prince
The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mr and Mrs Keith Bennett, of Aokautere, New Zealand, and Jennifer, younger daughter of Mr Michael Prince, of Oxshott, Surrey and the late Mrs Lore Prince.

Mr A. Cammegh and Miss L. Morgan
The engagement is announced between Andrew, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Bill Cammegh, of Crundale, Kent, and Louise, second daughter of Mr Christopher Morgan, of Saint Saturnin-les-Apt, Vaucluse, France, and Mrs Patsy Morgan, of Fulham, London.

Mr W.B. Gibbs and Miss A. Hurren
The engagement is announced between Will, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Gibbs, of Kensington, London, and Ashley, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Hurren, of Selsdon, Surrey.

Mr B.J.H. Gray and Miss H. Watford
The engagement is announced between Benjamin, only son of Mr and Mrs John Gray, of Barry, Scotland, and Helen, only child of Mr David Watford, of Amersham, Buckinghamshire, and Mrs Janet Watford-Salter, of Brussels, Belgium.

Mr J.M. Hobday and Miss J.C. Egar
The engagement is announced between Justin, elder son of Mr and Mrs Michael Hobday, of Kingswood, Surrey, and Justine, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs William Egar, of Ackleton, Shropshire.

Mr E.H. Jenkins and Miss C.C. Hitchcox
The engagement is announced between Hugo, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Jenkins, of Sevenoaks, Kent, and Claudia, only daughter of the late Mr Duncan Hitchcox and of Mrs Claire Hitchcox, of Belchamp Walter, Sudbury, Suffolk.

Mr A.J.R. Johnston and Miss A.C. Kervin
The engagement is announced between Adrian, eldest son of Mr and Mrs John Johnston, of Helensborough, Dunbartonshire, and Alison, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Kervin, of Bournville, Birmingham.

Mr C.E.T. Lewis and Miss M.J. Berg
The engagement is announced between Charlie, younger son of Mr Ian Lewis, of Fordcombe, Kent, and Mrs Patsy Webb, of Hailsham, East Sussex, and Michelle, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs Derek Berg, of Sydney, Australia.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: William Edward Parry, Arctic explorer, Bath, 1790; Sir Ralph Richardson, actor, Cheltenham, 1902; Leonid Brezhnev, President of the Soviet Union 1977-82, Dneprodzerzhinsk, Ukraine, 1906; Edith Piaf, singer, Paris, 1915; Eamonn Andrews, broadcaster, Dublin, 1922.

DEATHS: Vitus Bering, navigator, Bering Island, 1741; Emily Brontë, poet and novelist, Haworth, Yorkshire, 1848; Joseph Mallord William Turner, painter, London, 1851; Sir Paul Vinogradoff, historian, Paris, 1925.

Henry II became King of England, 1154.

Britain and China signed an agreement for the return in 1997 of Hong Kong to China, 1984.

A powerful laser beam lights up the sky above Stockport to mark the opening of the Co-operative Bank's new Pyramid Building. The light, said to be the most powerful laser beam in Britain, is mounted on top of the 120ft high building and can be seen from 12 miles away. The bank's move to the new building has created nearly 200 jobs

Service dinner

HMS Northwood
Lieutenant-Commander Trevor Wright presided at the annual ladies' night dinner of former officers of the *HMS Northwood* Training Department held last night at the Army and Navy Club.

Dinners

Royal Society of St George
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, attended the Christmas dinner of the City of London branch of the Royal Society of St George held last night at the Mansion House. Mrs Pauline Halliday, chairman, presided. The President of the Family Division and the Rev Basil Watson were the speakers. Among those present were:
The High Commissioner for Canada and Mrs MacLaren, the Ambassador of Tunisia, the Recorder of London and Lady Verney, Mr Alderman and Mrs Gavyn Arthur, Mr Alderman and Mrs David Brewer, the Sword Bearer, the Masters of the Wax Chandlers', Bowyers' and Horners' Companies, the Master of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London and Mr Peter Halliday.

Air Force Board
Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, Chief of the Air Staff, presided at a dinner given by the Air Force Board Standing Committee and their ladies at the RAF Club last night to mark the retirement of Air Marshal Sir Roger Austin, Controller Aircraft.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Norman Swainson, Rector, Jarrow Grange: to be Priest-in-charge Cockfield and Lynesack (Durham).

The Rev Ian Thurston, Parochus of the Parish, All Hallows by the Tower: to be Vicar, Holy Trinity, Tottenham (London).

The Rev Barry Tomlinson, Rector, Great and Little Plumstead w Thorpe End and Witton: to be *also* Rural Dean of Blofield (Norwich).

The Rev Keith Wilkinson, Headmaster of Kings School, Canterbury: to be *also* an Honorary Canon of Canterbury Cathedral (Canterbury).

The Rev John Woods, Priest-in-charge (NSM), Birdsall w Langton: to be Priest-in-charge (NSM), newly-created benefice of Settrington w North Grimston, Birdsall w Langton (York).

Resignations and retirements
The Venerable Ernest Stroud, Archdeacon of Colchester (Chelmsford): to retire April 30, 1997, and then to be appointed Archdeacon Emeritus.

Canon Cedric Bradbury, Rector, Great Massingham w Little Massingham and Harpley; Honorary Canon of Norwich Cathedral, and Priest-in-charge, Weasenham and Wellingham (Norwich): to retire January 31, 1997.

Canon Roy Arnold, Diocesan Communications Officer, Chaplain with Deaf People, and an Honorary Canon of Sheffield Cathedral (Sheffield): to retire April 4, 1997.

Canon Peter Bustin, Vicar, Southwold; Chaplain to Southwold Hospital and Summer Theatre, and an Honorary Canon of St Edmundsbury Cathedral (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich): to retire February 28, 1997.

The Rev Peter Wrenn, Chaplain, Solihull School, Solihull (Birmingham): to retire July 31, 1997.

The Rev Michael Lippiatt, Vicar, Holy Trinity, Jesmond (Newcastle): retired October 31.

The Rev David Tompkins, Vicar, Tockwith and Bilton w Bickerton (York): to retire April 30, 1997.

The Rev John Whittaker, part-time Assistant Curate, Shill Valley and Broadshire (Oxford): to resign December 31.

Memorial services

Lord Finsberg
The Lord Chancellor was present at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Lord Finsberg held yesterday at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue, St John's Wood.

Rabbi David Goldberg officiated. Mr Donald Leapman, cousin, read *Psalm 90*. Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Buchanan, Master of the Guild of Freemen, read the Prophetical lesson, *Exodus 18: 13-26*. Mr Philip Wood, Chairman of the Bevin Boys Association, read *Psalm 121* and Lord Wolfson read *Psalm 15*.

Councillor Julian Tobin, Camden Council, Mr Adrian Barnes, Remembrancer of the Corporation of the City of London, Sir Anthony Durant, MP, Leader of the British Delegation to the Council of Europe and the Western European Union, and Mme Leni Fischer, President of the Assembly of the Council of Europe, paid tribute.

The Prime Minister was represented by Mr John Ward, MP, and the Speaker by Mr Michael Morris, Chairman of Ways and Means and Deputy Speaker. The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the President of the Assembly of Western European Union, the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the Council of Europe, the Lord Mayor of London, the Mayor of Camden, and the Deputy Lord Mayor of Westminster and the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Milton Keynes attended.

The Chairman of the Conservative Party was represented by Sir Graham Bright, MP, vice-chairman. Among others present were:

Lady Finsberg (widow), Mr Patrick Sarch, Mr Adam Sarch and Mr Christopher Turner (stepsons), Mr and Mrs Toby Gross, Mrs Donald Leapman, Mr and Mrs Arthur Kauffman, Mr and Mrs Malcolm Winton, Mr Marcus Ward, Mrs Anne Weatherley and other members of the family.

The Ambassadors of Macedonia, Croatia, Albania, Lithuania, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine, the Chargés d'affaires for Austria and the Slovak Republic, the Deputy Head of Mission for Hungary, the President of the Legislative Assembly of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and representatives of the Embassies of Cyprus, Sweden, the Czech Republic, Greece, the Republic of Ireland, Romania, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and other members of the diplomatic corps.

The Earl of Dundee, Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, Lady Wolfson, Lord and Lady Clark of Kempston, Lord and Lady Shaw of Northstead, Lord Crickhowell, Lord and Lady Feldman, Lord Jenkin of Roding, Lord and Lady Kirkhill, Lord and Lady Mackie of Benshie, Lord Murton of Lindisfarne, Lord Taylor of Warwick, Lord Weatherill, Baroness Hooper, Baroness Oppenheim-Barnes, Lord Clinton-Davis, Baroness Miller of Hendon.

Sir John Cope, MP, and Lady Cope, Sir John Wheeler, MP, Mr John Gummer, MP, Sir John Stanley, MP, Lady Buchanan, Lady Durant, Sir Michael Latham (Council of Christians and Jews) with members of the council; Sir Andrew Bowden, MP, Dame Peggy Fenner, MP, Sir Ralph Howell, MP, Sir John Hunt, MP, Sir Russell Johnston, MP, (leader, Liberal Group, Council of Europe), Sir Irvine Patnick, MP, and Lady Patnick, Sir Roger Sims, MP, Sir Brian and Lady Jenkins, Sir Anthony Grant, Sir Clifford Cherwood.

Sir Fergus Montgomery, MP, Sir Michael Neubert, MP, Sir Keith Speed, MP, Sir Anthony Gardner, Dame Simone Prendergast, Sir Hugh and Lady Rossi, Sir Edward and Lady Jackson, Sir John and Lady Loveridge, Sir Idris Pearce (English Partnerships), Sir Ian McLeod, Sir Michael Shersby, MP, Sir William van Straubenzee, Sir Michael Craig-Cooper (president, Kensington and Chelsea Conservative Association), Sir Peter Fry, MP.

Sir Michael Latham (Council of Christians and Jews) with Sister Margaret Shepherd and the Rev Eric Allen; Sir David and Lady Stringer, Sir Geoffrey Leith (president, Hampstead and Highgate Conservative Association) and Lady Leigh with Mrs M Harrison (patron) and other members of the association; Mr and the Hon Mrs Allan Chapman, Mr Edward Kellett-Bowman, MEP, and Dame Elaine Kellett-Bowman, MP.

The Chief Commoner, Colonel John Ansell, the Vice-Chairman of Buckinghamshire County Council, Mr and Mrs David Miller Sarch, Mr and Mrs Michael Sarch, Mr Patrick Sarch; Councillor Angela Hooper, Mrs Elsa Nelson, Mr Donald Sinden, Mr Richard Alexander, MP, and Mrs Alexander, Mr David Atkinson, MP, Mr Terry Davis, MP, and Mrs Davis, Mr Frank Dobson, MP, Mr Peter Hardy, MP, Mr Tim Rathbone, MP, and Mrs Rathbone, Mr William Morris.

Mrs Philip Wood, Mrs Julian Tobin, Mr Alderman Gavyn Arthur, Mr Bruce Farthing, Mr and Mrs H Wimburn Horlock, Mrs Elizabeth Shindler, Dr Christopher Ward, Mr John Platts-Mills, QC, Mr Richard Caws, Mr John Harvey, Mr Bernard L Morgan, Mr Donald du Parc Braham, Mr and Mrs George Villiers, Mrs Lionel King-Lewis, Mr and Mrs John Dudley, Mr John Trustram-Eve, Mrs E Schindler, Miss J Langdon, Mr Peter Hardy, MP, Miss Helen Martin-Gee, Mr Keith Best.

Miss Judith Barnes, Dr A K Antoniou, Mr Richard Alexander, MP, Mr Toby Jessel, MP, and Mrs Jessel, Mr Roy Hughes, MP, Dr and Mrs M Miller, Mr Frank Nickson, Miss Margaret Palmer, Mr George Challis, Mr David M Shalit, Miss Anne Bretherick, Mr J Michael Edwards, QC, Dr Ivor Stanbrook, Mr P W Parker, Mr Tim Robertson, Mr and Mrs Peter Leapman.

Mr Norman Munday (Warden of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London) with other members of the guild); Dr John Bradfield (chairman, Commission for the New Towns) and other members of the commission, Mr Colin Munro (Head of Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe Unit), Councillor David Weeks (Westminster), Councillor Miss D Weatherhead (Kensington and Chelsea), Councillor J Turner (Camden), Mr J A Lemkin (chairman of trustees, Hampstead Wells and Camden Trust), Mr Michael Farrer and Mr Tony Blackburn (Holborn and St Pancras Conservative Association).

Major-General Robert Staveley (chairman, board of governors, Royal School, Hampstead) with Lady Travers (vice-chairman) and Mrs A Mayes; Mr Richard Wheeler-Bennett (chairman, Marie Curie Cancer Care), Mr Matthew Lewin (Editor, *Hampstead and Highgate Express*), Mrs Peggy Jay (Heath and Old Hampstead Society), Ms Rita Adler (chairman, Liberal Jewish Synagogue) with congregants of the synagogue; Mr Kenneth Durham (Headmaster, University College School) with Mr John Boal (bursar).

Members of the Assembly of the Council of Europe, members of the Corporation of London, representatives of the Bevin Boys Association, the Anglo-Austrian Society, the friends of Highgate Cemetery, the TGWU, ECIA, Conservative Central Office, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Howgate Sable & Partners, Great Universal Stores, the City Conservative Forum and the London Non-Destructive Testing Company, past and present staff of the British Delegation to the Council of Europe, and and many other parliamentary and personal friends, colleagues and former constituents.

Mr Lars-Åke Nilsson
A memorial service for Mr Lars-Åke Nilsson, Ambassador of Sweden, was held yesterday at St Martin-in-the Fields. The Rev Bernhard Schünemann officiated, assisted by the Very Rev Lennart Sjöström, of the Swedish Church, London. Mr Robert Cormack and Mr Mårten Grunditz, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. at the Swedish Embassy, paid tribute.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs was represented by Sir John Birch. The Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, the Permanent Under-Secretary of State and Head of the Diplomatic Service and the Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps attended. Among others present were:

Mrs Nilsson (widow), Mr Wolfgang Panke and Mrs Kerstin Sassola (brother-in-law and sister), Mr and Mrs Jan Arnell (brother-in-law and sister-in-law).

The Apostolic Nuncio, the Ambassadors of the Azerbaijan Republic, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Croatia and Mrs Cičin-Šain, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Ethiopia, Finland and Mrs Saloiainen, Hungary and Mrs Alföldy, Iceland, the Republic of Ireland, Italy and Signora Galli, Japan, Latvia and Mrs Lusis, Lithuania and Mrs Paleckis, Luxembourg, Macedonia and Mrs Nikovski, Mozambique, Myanmar, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Senegal, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and Uruguay and Señora de Fischer.

The High Commissioners for Barbados, Canada, Cyprus, Lesotho, Namibia and Mrs Ulenga, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka and Mrs Wickremesinghe, Tanzania, Tonga, and Zimbabwe and Mrs Chideya, the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of Austria, Chile, Lebanon, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Mrs Kočak and Venezuela, the Deputy High Commissioners of Australia, Belize, and Malawi, the Acting High Commissioners of Ghana and Mrs Hayford, the Maldives and Trinidad and Tobago and Mrs Edwards.

The Second Secretary (Cultural Affairs) Argentine Embassy, the Second Secretary at the Embassy of the Bahamas, the Deputy Chief of Mission of Egypt, the Deputy Chief of Mission of the Netherlands and Baroness van Pallandt, the Deputy Head of Mission of Thailand and Mrs Chabchitrchaidol; the Minister Plenipotentiary of Israel, the Minister Counsellor of the Jamaican Embassy, the Minister Counsellor of the Kazakhstan Embassy, the Minister Counsellor of the Spanish Embassy, Mr Dan Turnquist (American Embassy), the Consul General of Eritrea, representatives of the Embassy of Bahrain with other members of the Diplomatic Corps.

Viscount Craigavon, Lord Gillmore of Thamesfield, Sir Richard and Lady Luce, Lady (Archibald) Ross, Sir Keith Stuart, Sir Peregrine Rhodes, Sir Sigmund and Lady Sternberg, Mrs Mårten Grunditz, Mrs Robert Cormack, Mr Jeremy Greenstock, Mr Francis Richards, Mr Philip Astley, Mr Anthony Layden, Dr Pehr G Gyllenhammar, Mr and Mrs John Woolfenden, Count Bertil Bernadotte, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Charles Harcourt-Smith.

Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Smith, Mr David Amess, MP, Mr Lionel Altman, Mr and Mrs Staffan Gadd, Mr Maurice Djanogly, Dr Cyril Nemeth, Mr and Mrs Anthony Spink, Swedish Honorary Consuls, representatives of the Swedish Chamber of Commerce, the Swedish Trade Council, the Swedish School, the Swedish Travel and Tourism Council with many other friends from Britain and overseas having connections with Sweden.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

I have considered my way of life and turned back to your instruction; I have never delayed, but always made haste to keep your commandments. Psalm 119 : 59,60.

BIRTHS

BOURN - On 18th December, in Paris, to Amanda (née Muston) and Thierry, a son, Anthony Jeffrey.

CORRY - on December 9th to Maria (Née Bickerstaff) and Dominic a beautiful daughter Lucia Nicola Mary

DEMETRIADI - Nicola and Nicholas are delighted to announce the arrival of their first child, a son, Alexi Nicholas, on December 14th.

JEEVANJEE-FREMOND - Adam Anver Armand, born at 2.38pm, on December 14 1996, to Tasneem Jeevanjee & Bertrand Fremond at Clinique Des Grangettes, Geneva, Switzerland. Weight 3.76 KGS. Height 51 CMS.

JENKINS - On December 6th 1996 to Louise (née Ratcliffe) and Iain, a son Robert Henry, a brother for Isobel.

MALLETT - On 6th December at The Portland Hospital to Juliette and David, a beautiful daughter, Bonnie Adele Jean, a sister for Sonny and Celia.

McNEISH - On 9th December, to Sally (née Jones) and Michael, a daughter, Alexandra Mary Alice, a sister for Helena and Victoria.

ORR - On 11th December, to Emma (née Bird) and Nicholas, a daughter, Katharine Elizabeth Anne.

ROSSITER-LANGWORTHY on December 18th to Annette Julia (Née Moore) and Reinhard, a son, Charles Edward Graham Monty. A big welcome friend.

WILLIAMS on 11th December to Gail (Née de la Rue) and Don a daughter Ella Elizabeth

DEATHS

BEAVER - Leslie George (Major), died suddenly on 12th December 1996, aged 80. Former Director at County Bank (Natwest Group). Funeral Service at The Woodvale Crematorium, Brighton, on Monday 23rd December at 12 noon. Flowers or donations to Barnados c/o Hanningtons F/D, tel: (01273) 778733.

DEATHS

BAIRD - Angus George David. Beloved husband of Fiona; father of Nicola, Eliza and Andrew and brother of Diana. On 15th December after a long illness fought bravely with dignity and humour. No flowers please. Cremation private. Memorial Service to be held on 23rd January 1997 at St Mary's, Albury at 11.30am. Donations to Marie Curie Cancer Care, 28 Belgrave Square, SW1 and Colon Cancer Concern, c/- Chelsea & Westminster Hospital, 369 Fulham Road, SW10.

CARLISLE - Christopher, died peacefully, on 17th December, after a short illness. Husband of Carol and father of Isabel, Lucy and Nicholas. Family funeral. Memorial Service at 12 noon, Saturday 18th January 1997, at Holy Trinity, Prince Consort Road, London, SW7. No flowers. Donations in lieu to The Pedestrians Association.

CARR-WALKER - On 17th December, peacefully after a long illness, courageously fought, aged 50 years. Richard Carr-Walker much loved husband of Jessica, father of Paola and Gregory, son of Bess and brother of Carole and Diana. A service of Thanksgiving will take place at St. Nicholas Church, West Tanfield, Ripon, N.Yorks, on Monday 23rd December at 2pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired may be given for Cancer Research at the Royal Marsden Hospital, London. A plate provided at the service.

CASSELS - Field Marshal Sir James, peacefully on 13th December in his 90th year. Please no letters and no memorial service, at his request.

COGHILL - Patricia Mary, on 13th December, peacefully in Norwich, aged 84. Funeral Service at St. Mary's Church, Brancaster at 12 noon, Monday 23rd December. Enquiries to J. Lincoln, 40 Greevgate, Hunstanton, tel: (01485) 534421. Family flowers only.

CHIVERS - Eileen Mary (née McGann) on Sunday 15th December at Guy's Hospital, London. Deeply loved and missed by all her family, her many friends and in particular by her son, Thomas. Requiem Mass at 11.00am on Friday 20th December at St. Etheldreda's Church, Ely Place, London, followed by burial at West Norwood Cemetery, Norwood Road, London. Flowers and enquiries to Henry Smith (Battersea) Ltd Funeral Directors, 180 Battersea Park Road, London. Tel: 0171 622 4935. Donations if so desired to Guy's and St. Thomas's Trust (Hedley Atkins).

COLQUHOUN - Suddenly, on 16th December 1996, following a tragic accident, Ian Hugh Campbell, aged 66 years, of Longparish, Hampshire. Beloved husband of Jill, dearly loved father of Andrew and grandfather of Robert. Funeral at St. Nicholas Church, Longparish, on Monday 23rd December at 10.30am, followed by private cremation. Enquiries to Howe & Son, Funeral Directors. Tel: (01635) 298303.

CROSS - James Edwin, on the 18th December 1996. Emeritus Professor of English language, Liverpool University, peacefully in hospital. Funeral Service to be held at St Saviours Church, Oxton, Birkenhead, on Monday 23rd December, at 10.45am, followed by cremation at Landican Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations to Save the Children Fund. Enquiries to T A Ball Funeral Service, tel: (0151) 652 4974.

DAVIES - On 16th December, peacefully at The King's Head Nursing Home, Barnard Castle (formerly of Egglestone), Edith Margaret, aged 92 years. Beloved wife of the late John. Funeral Service in St. Romald's Church, Romaldkirk, on Saturday 21st December, at 11.30am, followed by interment in the cemetery. Friends please meet at church. Floral tributes may be sent to Thomas Lee & Sons Funeral Directors, 100 Galgate, Barnard Castle.

DAWSON - On 13th December 1996, suddenly at St. Thomas' Hospital, London, Ronald Derek. A loving husband to Veronica and a devoted father of Gemma and Zoe. Private cremation. Thanksgiving Service at All Saints' Church, Milford-on-Sea, on 23rd December at 12 Noon. Donations, if desired, for British Heart Foundation may be sent c/o F.W House & Sons F/D, Lymington, Hampshire.

FORSTER - Margaret Joan (formerly Baker, née Murphy), on 18th December 1996, peacefully at St Christopher's Hospice. Dearly loved wife of Brian and adored mother of Helen, Sarah and Colette. Funeral Service at St Stephen's Church, College Rd, Dulwich on 24th December 1996 at 10.00am followed by private family burial. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

FOSTER - Eric. Beloved husband, father and gramps, peacefully at home in Cheltenham, aged 75 years. Service at St. Peters Church, Leckhampton, at 12.45pm on Monday 23rd December. Enquiries and flowers to Mason & Stokes, 54 Hewlett Rd, Cheltenham.

FRANKLYN WILLIAMS - See Williams

HERMANN - Lena (Akehurst), peacefully at home, on 16th December. Wife of Tony and mother of Jean, Gerald, John and Anthony, also loving grandmother and great-grandmother. Cremation at Breakspear Crematorium, Ruislip, West Chapel, 23rd December at 12.15pm. No flowers. If desired donations to Marie Curie/MacMillan Nurses.

JENKINS - Thomas Douglas, aged 96, suddenly but peacefully, at The Prince George Duke of Kent Nursing Home, Chislehurst, on Monday 16th December. Much loved husband of the late Mary, father of David and the late Michael, grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral Service and celebration of his life to be held at 10.15 am, on Friday 20th December at St Michael and All Angels Church, Wilmington, Dartford, Kent, followed by private cremation. No flowers please, donations if desired to R.M.B.I. c/o Messrs. H. Copeland & Son Ltd, 9 Bromley Road, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 5NT.

LAURIE - Suddenly on 9th December, James Guthrie, dearly loved and loving father of Madeleine and grandfather of Kate and Andrew. Private funeral has taken place as he requested.

PARRETTE - Dorothy May, peacefully at St George's Retreat, West Sussex, in her 90th Year. Much loved widow of Charlie, mother of Beryl, Richard and Derek, grandmother of 12 and great-grandmother of 13. Cremation at Woodvale Crematorium, Brighton, on 23rd December at 10.45am. Family flowers only, donations to Alzheimers Disease Society c/o Radmall Funeral Services, 223 London Road, Burgess Hill.

TIDY - On 16th December 1996, peacefully in her 90th year, Beatrice Mary (Bee), wife of the late Peter Tidy M.C. Devoted mother of Ann, Jane, Sue and Thomas. Loving sister and mum-in-law. Adored granny of Emmy, Tamsin, Tim, Hattie and Laurie. Cremation private. A Thanksgiving Service will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Bramley, Surrey, at 12.00 noon, on Saturday 4th January. Please come. Family flowers only.

VON STEMANN - Paul Ernst, died peacefully at his home in Oxfordshire, on 16th December 1996. Private cremation.

WHITFORD - On 16th December 1996, Katherine Ellen (Pat), aged 79, peacefully after a long illness so bravely fought. Most dearly beloved wife of Percy and devoted and dearly loved mother of Dr Francis Peter. Service at Datchet Parish Church, at 11am, on Saturday 28th December 1996, thereafter cremation at Slough Crematorium. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Slough and District Talking Newspaper c/o E Sargeant & Son Funeral Directors, 40 Church Street, Slough, SL1 1PJ.

WILLIAMS - On Monday 16th December 1996, Nancy Williams MBE (née David). Loved wife and friend of the Late Arthur Franklyn Williams CMG. Resting at the private funeral home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral on Monday 23rd December 1996, at Mid Glamorgan Crematorium, Bridgend, at 2.30pm. Family flowers only may be sent to the funeral home.

YOUNG - Dr Richard John, MBE, retired ICI employee, died suddenly but peacefully, on 5th December 1996, in England, in a local hospice, aged 79 years. Devoted husband to the late Billie Young, loving father to Victoria, husband Martin and grandpa to Isabel. Funeral took place 10th December 1996.

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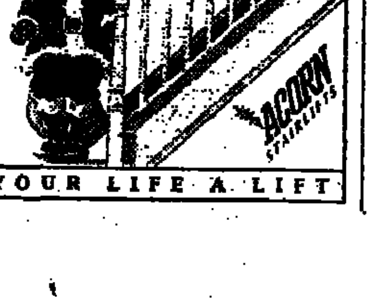

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هكذا من الاصل

JOE CORAL

Joe Coral, bookmaker and former head of the Coral Leisure Group, died on December 16 aged 92. He was born on December 11, 1904.

The rise of Joe Coral from a workaday layer of odds in the interwar years at the White City, Harringay and Clapton dog tracks to becoming one of the three biggest names in bookmaking in Britain was one of those feats of modern commerce which had a transtlantic touch about it. Joe Kagarlitski was a fatherless Polish immigrant boy, both of whose arms were crippled by polio. The slogan he invented to sell himself: "Never a quarrel, bet with Coral" was of that delightfully simplistic order intended to indicate that this remarkable man, unlike most tycoons of the business world, never made an enemy.

But a man who had begun life running bets for a local bookie, before realising that working for someone else was a mug's game, was bound to come into confrontation with the "heavy" men of the betting business. He made his pitch on the largely gang-controlled London dog tracks of the 1920s when he stood up to an Italian gang who thought that they were the kings of the patch. "When Derby Sabini, who was head of the gang, demanded money or else, I shoved an old rusty pistol that wasn't even loaded into his guts and told him 'F*** off or you'll get this through the belly'," he was later to recall. That single act established Joe Coral's "street cred" in no uncertain terms and he had no problems at that level of operation, again.

It was the beginning of the foundation of an empire that was to expand dramatically, with betting shops aross the country. From there Coral went into bingo, casinos and hotels. But the latter were to prove his downfall when, after enjoying a position only just behind Ladbrokes and William Hill in the 1970s, Coral was taken over by the Bass group in 1981.

Joe Kagarlitski was born into a Jewish family in the Pale of Settlement in the western part of the Russian Empire. His father died, but his mother succeeded in bringing the family to London, where they arrived penniless and unable to speak a word of English.

Life on the streets of England's and the Empire's capital in the years before the First World War, if not subject to the pogroms of Russia, was still nasty, brutish and often not of long duration. Polio which crippled both of Joe Coral's arms did not appear to improve his prospects.

At 14 he left school, having grasped the language and the rudiments of mathematics, including, most importantly for his subsequent progress, the lesson: "That two and two sometimes make five and that it's the one point profit that matters."

Working as office boy for a firm of lighting manufacturers in Gray's Inn Road he was soon introduced to betting. In the early Twenties, this was still a shady world of street bookmakers equipped with bags that had built-in clocks to time wagers. Police were perpetually on the lookout for them and for their runners. Coral became a bookie's runner, dispatched each day to place the firm's bets.

It did not take long for him to realise that winners were very few and far between, nor to reach the conclusion that he could make a profit if he stood the bets himself with a "float" of the £5 he had received in gifts at his Bar Mitzvah. Soon he was concentrating on this private enterprise activity to an extent which earned him the sack. But Coral, bookmaker, was on his way.

By the time of the General Strike of 1926, he had hired a room at a Stoke Newington billiards club and two runners. Next, he acquired pitches at various dog tracks, and by the time war came in 1939, he was advertising himself as "North London's premier bookmaker", was smoking the big cigars obligatory to his popular image and was driving around in a large American limousine.

When the Second World War broke out Coral could not serve in the Armed Forces in any capacity because of his childhood polio disability. Closing down his office, he evacuated his family from London. He had been left with bad debts when some of his agents let him down, but by 1942 he had bounced back and reopened in Stoke Newington. In 1944 he made a £5,000 profit on the Waterloo Cup.

That was the breakthrough which enabled him to move to the West End of London. Business was good except in 1947, when firm going caused a succession of winning favourites, a £30,000 loss, and temporary retreat to Stoke Newington. But Coral was again in the West End well in time for the next important development: the legalising of betting for the ordinary punter with the advent of betting shops in the early 1960s.

From then on, despite Coral's early doubts, the business, with the help of two of his sons, Bernard and Nicholas, expanded in spectacular fashion. Coral Leisure Group grew into an organisation owning a big chain of betting shops with a multi-million pound turnover and was one of the first bookmaking firms to go public. In the mid-Seventies it was merged with the Mark Lane Group and ranked with William Hill and Ladbroke's as the other one of the "Big Three". But diversification into other activities such as casinos, bingo and hotels and the eventual loss of its casino licence brought a takeover from the Bass Group early in 1981.

Nevertheless, Joe Coral was made president for the rest of his life. In retirement in St Marylebone he maintained his enthusiasm for charity work — and the more than occasional flutter. Ironically, he always said that the racetrack was the place he least liked to place a bet himself. "I haven't placed a bet since the war," he said a few years ago. "If I want to bet I'll do it on bridge or billiards. At least they're games of skill."

He is survived by his wife Dorothy, whom he married in 1927, and by three sons.

MICHAEL SAUNDERS

Michael Saunders CB, QC, Treasury Solicitor since 1995, died after a sudden heart attack on December 17 aged 52. He was born on April 13, 1944.

AT A stunningly premature moment, in full swing of an outstanding career stretching back over a quarter of a century as a public servant, Michael Saunders, the Treasury Solicitor (the head of the Government Legal Service) has had his life cut short. If the position of "T. Sol." has frequently in the past been seen as a post bestowed on the basis of Buggins's turn, it certainly could not be said of Saunders's appointment that it came about through anything but merit.

While being an insider, and thus knowing all the wrinkles of the government legal machine, Saunders was justifiably appointed to the office, which for the first time in 1995 was subject to open competition. During his public service he ran the gamut of the variety of legal departments in government — moving from the Department of Trade and Industry to the Treasury Solicitor's Office, to the Law Officers' (Attorney and Solicitor-General) Department, to Customs & Excise, to the Home Office and finally to the headship of government lawyers. He took silk last April.

Michael Lawrence Saunders was educated at Clifton College, after which he took a law degree at Birmingham University and a postgraduate law degree at Jesus College, Cambridge. He was called to the Bar by Gray's Inn in 1971, but only after a stint as Third Secretary at the Hague Conference on Private International Law, before going to join the staff of the Treasury Solicitor. This early work in international law was an abiding interest, channelled in the 1970s and afterwards into European law of which he became a supreme interpreter to Law Officers and ministers. (Throughout his career he contributed regularly to journals on international and European law.)

What marked out Saunders for distinction was the coolness of the judgment that he brought to every legal problem. His peculiar value to ministers was his readiness to look to solutions while never ignoring the contradictions posed by the law. He was not so imbued with crabbed lawyerly attitudes — fine lawyer though he was — that he could not give sound advice within the legal framework. He was, in effect, an exponent of politico-legal expertise. He was also never anything but patient and good-humoured. He would make his point forcibly, but with a twinkle of human kindness towards those to whom he was expounding the legal dimensions of a problem.

There was some surprise when Saunders went to the Home Office in 1992. Criminal law had never been his speciality, and it is open to conjecture that he did not, after 1993, find the present Home Secretary the most congenial of ministers to advise on law. The entanglement of Michael Howard with the judiciary — especially over the legislation on compensation for victims of crimes of violence — was the product of a minister (himself a QC) not listening sufficiently to his Legal Adviser.

Ever since his happy days in the Law Officers' Department with the Attorney-General, Lord (then Sam) Silkin, 1976-79, he had got on extremely well with ministers. That was in large part due to the matching of both intellectual ability and energy reciprocally of the Attorney and his Assistant Legal Secretary.

The mid-1990s at the Home Office were a less happy time for any legal adviser. Saunders did his best to remain ebullient, and robustly humorous, but there was a note of frustration in his recounting of the Home Office's perpetual forensic encounters. Yet his outside interests enabled him to rise above such rebuffs — even in middle age he lost none of his enthusiasm for cricket and squash.

He married in 1970 Anne Stobo, a social worker. He is survived by her and by a son and a daughter.

IRVING CAESAR

Irving Caesar, lyricist, died on December 17 aged 101. He was born on July 4, 1895.

IRVING CAESAR wrote the lyrics for more than a thousand published songs, among them several of the best and most popular ever sung. One of the last links to Manhattan's original Tin Pan Alley, he made his name in smoky, beer-smelling rooms where that other Irving, Berlin, thumped on the piano; where George Gershwin auditioned tunes for a young dancer called Fred Astaire; and where Harry Warren looked out of his window to pen his lullaby of Broadway.

Over the course of some fifty years, Caesar produced a succession of lyrics to songs that became definitive representations of their period. But he was never stronger than when writing for the stars who seemed to sum up the jazz age — men in top hats and tails and women in short, fringed dresses with pearls down to their waists.

Irving Caesar was born on Manhattan's Lower East Side, the son of a second-hand bookseller. As a boy, he acquired his first piano himself, for just $5, and had it hauled up the stairs to his family's tenement apartment.

He found success quite early, though his breakthrough was initially less spectacular than he might have hoped. In 1919, when Caesar was 24 years old, he and George Gershwin (who was three years younger) wrote a song that they were convinced was going to be a huge hit. It was included in the *Demitasse Review* at New York's Capitol Theatre, one of the most prestigious playhouses of the day. The show featured fifty dancing girls, their slippers aglow with electric lights. But after two weeks, nobody was cheering it and not a single copy of the two young men's song had been sold.

"I was terribly disappointed," Caesar later recounted. "Here I thought we had a smash and all we had were two smashed egos."

What saved the day was a party which both Gershwin and Caesar attended, as did two other leading lights of showbusiness. One of them was the highly successful songwriter Buddy De Sylva; the other was the greatest popular entertainer of the era, Al Jolson. De Sylva persuaded Jolson to meet Caesar and his young colleague. The result was that Jolson sang their song for them in his show *Sinbad*: the song was *Swanee*. Neither Gershwin nor Caesar would ever have a bigger success.

If Gershwin was to become known for his syncopation, it was the *words* of *Swanee* that made it so irresistible to Jolson. They might have been tailor-made for the blackface artist by a bespoke writer, who knew how much money there was to be made singing about the South.

Jolson paid his new lyricist well for his efforts — not in money, but in contacts and opportunities. Caesar was to write other big hits for the singer: *California Here I Come*; and the 1936 *Is It True What They Say About Dixie?*, which had a notable revival in 1949 after it was featured in the film *Jolson Sings Again* — and he also wrote the lyrics for Jolson's 1925 show *The Wonder Bar*. More important, he became part of the star's entourage, and so met everybody who was anybody in the business.

It was as a result of *Swanee* that other songwriters started queueing up for Caesar's talents. In the years to come, he wrote with Vincent Youmans, Victor Herbert, Sigmund Romberg and Rudolf Friml.

His most successful Broadway show was the 1924 *No, No Nanette* (he followed it with the much less successful *Yes, Yes Yvette*) which later was made into three films, the most recent bearing the name of the principal standard from the score, *Tea for Two*. Other songs that Caesar wrote for the show included *I Want To Be Happy*.

He worked on the scores of some of Broadway's most famous reviews, including both the *Ziegfeld Follies* and the *George White Scandals* and the hugely successful Vincent Youmans show, *Hit The Deck*.

He wrote the Shirley Temple song, *Animal Crackers In My Soup*, and for the long-nosed American comedian Jimmy Durante, his signature tune *Umbriago*. One of his sweetest ballads was the 1940 *Imagination*, which was to be recorded over the years by some of America's finest vocalists, including Frank Sinatra and Doris Day.

In more recent years, his work took on a more worthy form. Caesar was to write the official anthem of the American Post Office, *Your US Mail Gets Through*. Well into his nineties, when he was virtually blind, he was still writing — principally road safety songs for American children. But above all, he was sought after in later life as a raconteur. A highly articulate man, he had a rich fund of jokes, anecdotes and recollections from the early days of popular song, and he liked nothing better than to tell them.

Asked about the message he delivered in his songs, he once replied, "No message at all — other than that I like people to sing my work. Even better, I like them to pay for it."

He is survived by his wife.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: The Magdalene College Youth Trust
Scheme including appointment of Trustees
Reference: ALB-39547-CD(Lds)
The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at 8/93, Elm Park Gardens, London, SW10 (telephone 0171 352 4975 for appointment) or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Alban's House, 57-60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX quoting the above reference. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

LEGAL NOTICES

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
CANTALOU INTERNATIONAL (GREAT BRITAIN) LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of Creditors of the above named Company will be held at Coopers & Lybrand, Churchill House, Churchill Way, Cardiff, South Glamorgan CF1 4XQ on 30 December 1996 at 10.00am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the said Act. A list of the names and addresses of the Company's Creditors may be inspected free of charge between 10.00am and 5.00pm at Coopers & Lybrand, Churchill House, Churchill Way, Cardiff, South Glamorgan CF1 4XQ on the two business days preceding the date of the Meeting.
Dated December 16 1996
By Order of the Board
Richard A Smart Chairman

LEGAL NOTICES

IAN GREER ASSOCIATES LIMITED
IAN GREER ASSOCIATES (EUROPE) LIMITED
IGA INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that meetings of the creditors of the above named companies will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co. situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, on 7th January 1997 at 12.00 noon, 12.01pm, 12.02pm respectively, for the purposes provided for in Section 98 et seq. It is not intended to propose any resolutions at the meetings concerning Liquidators remuneration, however the meetings may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meetings.
A list of names and addresses of the above companies' creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the Meetings of Creditors.
Dated this 16th December 1996
IAN R. GREER, Director

No. 006961 of 1996
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF CRT GROUP PLC
and
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 4th December 1996 confirming the cancellation of the Share Premium Account of the above-named Company was registered by the Registrar of Companies on the 12th December 1996.
Dated this 17th day of December 1996
Dibb Lupton Alsop of Carlton House, 18 Albert Square, Manchester M2 5PE. Ref. AH/JM/G-6649.476. Solicitors for the above-named Company.

LEGAL NOTICES

XND Reinforced Plastics Limited
Insolvency Act and Rules 1986
In accordance with Rule 4.106, I, Timothy Alexander Close of Milsted Langdon, Winchester House, Deane Gate Avenue, Taunton, Somerset, give notice that on 4 December 1996 I was appointed Liquidator of XND Reinforced Plastics Limited by resolutions of members and creditors. Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above named company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before 31 January 1997 to send in their full Christian and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned Timothy Alexander Close of Winchester House, Deane Gate Avenue, Taunton, Somerset, the Liquidator of the said company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution.
Dated: 5 December 1996
Timothy Alexander Close
Liquidator

UK LEGAL PROTECTION LIMITED
Notice is hereby given that Andrew James Nichols, of Redman Nichols, Licensed Insolvency Practitioners, 3-5 Market Place, Driffield, East Yorkshire, YO25 7AP, was appointed Liquidator of the above named company on 3 December 1996.
Notice is also hereby given that the creditors of the above named company are required on or before the 3 March 1997 to send their names and addresses and the particulars of their debts or claims and, if any, the names and addresses of their solicitors, to Andrew James Nichols of Redman Nichols, Licensed Insolvency Practitioners, the liquidator of the said company, at his offices at 3-5 Market Place, Driffield, East Yorkshire, YO25 7AP, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said liquidator, or by his solicitors, to come in and prove their said debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
11 December 1996
A. J. NICHOLS
Liquidator

OUR LONELIEST ISLAND.

A TRISTAN DA CUNHA CHRISTENING.

(BY THE REV. H. M. ROGERS.)

TRISTAN DA CUNHA (by mail).

Life on the loneliest British island is at all times very difficult, for this colony is like a sick child in the Empire. It has neither trade nor manufactures, and if it were able to produce anything in quantities the goods would have to be kept in store indefinitely, for ships are as scarce as the eggs of the Great Auk.

Once on a time the Admiralty sent a yearly gun-boat with a gift of stores, mail, a doctor, and a padre, but it grew tired of the expense, and the people were told to come off Tristan or stay on and starve. Being attached to what to them is the Mother Isle, they chose to stay and starve. And, indeed, they are not fitted to compete in a strenuous world, for they are a simple, uneducated, kindly race, like big children in temperament, and would surely fall a prey to land sharks.

This winter, though it has been only a moderately severe one, has been a struggle: many cattle have perished and some of the lambs: and fodder for stock has been short also … But the people are cheerful in the face of all their worries and throw themselves into any enjoyment that chance brings.

An opportunity for a gala day came in October, for there was a unique christening: the first and only English baby ever born on Tristan was baptized in the tiny island Church room. At daybreak all the Union Jacks on the island, some five in number, were hoisted at various flag poles and on the roof of the tiniest parsonage in the world. The missionary resides in a small two-roomed wooden hut. The day was fine and the people had put on their smartest clothes, which, having been procured from passing ships perhaps years ago, were curious and wonderful. Soldiers' and sailors' uniforms, dress suits, corduroys, dungaree, and early Victorian ladies' garments gave an impression that a fancy dress ball was at hand.

On October 21 the little Church school room at St. Mary's Church was decorated with flowers, and at 3 o'clock every one who could squeeze in did so to watch the missionary baptize his own baby. The last addition to the island population was named Edward, which pleased the folk, as it is the name of the Prince of Wales, for whom they have a sincere admiration.

Leading Tristanites stood as sponsors for the baby. The whole population was eager to act in the capacity, but it was decided to limit the number to six — four for Tristan and two for England. As soon as the service was over there was great tea drinking and about a hundred people shook hands with the missionary and his wife, and drank the baby's health in tea. A cake had been projected, but, owing to the shortage in flour and raisins and the difficulty of getting milk, it was so small that it only sufficed for the sponsors and the parsonage folk. Every one else was promised "a piece of cake when the next ship comes." We always expect to have sufficient after the next ship, Tristan being like "Alice in Wonderland" — "jam yesterday, jam to-morrow, but never jam to-day."

Those who could find anything made up presents for the baby, and he was soon the proud possessor of about half the money on the island — namely, an English half-crown and a sixpence; also several pairs of Tristan socks, for knitting which the island is famous, some coloured handkerchiefs of the "Pictures on them" variety, and several strange articles of headgear known as Tristan "cappies," worn by the children here. A metal teaspoon and a highly patterned egg-cup completed the collection. It was all made over "jintly," like Captain Cuttle's silver, to the baby and his mother …

ON THIS DAY

December 19, 1922

It was a great occasion when the first English baby born on Tristan was christened — the whole population was eager to act as sponsors so it was decided to limit the number to six.

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا مع الاصل

THE TIMES TODAY

THURSDAY DECEMBER 19 1996

NEWS

Embassy rebels threaten hostages

■ Guerrillas who took nearly 500 diplomats, politicians, business leaders and other top officials hostage at a glittering embassy reception in Lima threatened last night to start shooting their captives one by one.

The leftist rebels got in to the Japanese ambassador's residence disguised as waiters and let off explosives and fired automatic weapons. One of the 23 rebels was wounded and 170 of the captives were released .... **Pages 1, 13**

Duke says gun clubs no worse than golf

■ The Duke of Edinburgh suggested that members of shooting clubs were no more dangerous than members of golf or squash clubs. *He implied that the new legislation to ban certain* handguns would be ineffective because it would not prevent weapons getting into the hands of criminals .... **Page 1**

Paedophile register

Paedophiles and other sex offenders will have to register their addresses with the police for between five years and a lifetime under new plans........ **Page 1**

Unemployment fall

The largest fall in unemployment since present records began took the number of jobless down to below two million for the first time in almost six years, boosting Government hopes of the economy strengthening........ **Page 1**

Currency assurance

Kenneth Clarke will today almost certainly receive final Cabinet agreement that the Government's wait-and-see policy on the single *currency cannot be changed* before the General Election . **Page 2**

Imperfect murder

Russell Causley, a fraudster who claimed to have committed the perfect murder when he dissolved his wife's body in acid, was jailed for life .... **Page 3**

Anti-abortion party

Mohamed al Fayed has promised substantial financial backing for a new anti-abortion party which hopes to field 50 candidates at the general election........ **Page 4**

Hero remembered

A coroner paid tribute to a Battle of Britain fighter pilot and contrasted him with highly paid footballers and other false heroes of the 1990s........ **Page 5**

London food parcels

The Red Cross is to distribute food parcels in Britain for the first time in nearly 50 years because immigration controls have reduced refugees to the levels of famine-stricken countries. **Page 6**

Rabies control

Vets warned against an early change to quarantine controls and called for more evidence that alternative safeguards would keep out rabies .... **Page 7**

It's good to watch

A light entertainment show is to become the first British prime-time television programme to be paid for by an advertiser . **Page 8**

War crimes squad

A proposal to set up a special police squad to hunt down war criminals in the former Yugoslavia was approved by Nato defence ministers........ **Page 9**

Islamic fear

French police have boosted security at stations, airports and public buildings amid fears that Islamic terrorists may launch further bomb attacks in Christmas week........ **Page 10**

Clinton blow

Charles Trie, an Asian conduit for suspect donations to the Clintons, brought further humiliation to the White House when it emerged that he had maintained close ties long after aides had questioned his probity........ **Page 11**

Runaway Blair owns up

■ The best kept secret of Tony Blair's schooldays was revealed when he confessed on television that he sneaked on to a plane destined for the Bahamas at the age of 14 to escape the horrors of public school. Mr Blair said "the craziest thing" he had ever done happened after his parents put him on a train in Newcastle to return to Fettes School in Edinburgh........ **Page 1**

JASON REED / Reuters

The Duke of York, colonel-in-chief of the 1st Batallion, Staffordshire Regiment, with his men during a two-day visit to Hong Kong yesterday

BUSINESS

Electricity: Only two out of the original twelve regional companies will remain independent or without a bid after London Electricity yesterday agreed to be taken over by Entergy of New Orleans ... **Page 21**

Jobless: The biggest monthly fall in unemployment since present records began took the seasonally adjust number of jobless below 2 million for the first time in six years .... **Page 21**

Building societies: The Woolwich pledged to fight to amend the new Building Societies Bill that was published yesterday........ **Page 21**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 38.6 to 4018.2. Sterling rose from 94.0 to 94.4 after a rise from $1.6718 to $1.6725 and from DM2.5841 to DM2.5999........ **Page 24**

Cricket: Excellent bowling by Robert Croft kept England in contention on the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe, who reached 256 for six .... **Page 40**

Sailing: A second yacht in the BT Global Challenge has suffered a failure to her forestay, raising concerns that the fault may be replicated on other boats........ **Page 40**

Equestrianism: Paul Darragh, of Ireland, made a rousing start to the Olympia Show when he and the eight-year-old, Scandal, won the Christmas Candle Stakes by 1.82sec .... **Page 37**

Racing: Bellator, the ante-post favourite for the Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham next March, has been ruled out for the season by a stress fracture of the leg........ **Page 35**

New films: With frenetic action, an unrelenting soundtrack and no time to develop relationships between the characters, *Evita* is all lung and no heart........ **Page 29**

New releases: On video, Eddie Murphy finds a darkly comic vehicle in Wes Craven's *Vampire in Brooklyn*; while on CD, Felicity Lott goes all French and frothy on a new recording of Offenbach .... **Page 30**

Rival Nutcrackers: London is being treated to two rival versions of *The Nutcracker*, one by English National Ballet and the other by the Kirov from St Petersburg.. **Page 31**

Solo singer: Galina Gorchakova gives an entirely Russian programme in her recital but the strain of fatigue is evident .... **Page 31**

IN THE TIMES

■ POP

Nigel Williamson on grandmother and rock legend Tina Turner, live at Wembley Arena

■ EDUCATION

The Times guide to Britain's top universities for research, subject by subject

Growing back: Dr Thomas Stuttaford on the mystery of hair loss and how hair can return........ **Page 14**

Mistletoe may contain medicinal benefits .... **Page 14**

Top city: Which is the trendiest city and the best for dining out: New York or London? Irwin Stelzer rates restaurants in the two by variety, price, and service .... **Page 15**

Reviews: Karen Armstrong on a history of Christianity; Philip Howard on the Penguin edition of Euripides; Roger Scruton on hunting; Jonathan Clark on the Prime Minister who lost America**Pages 32, 33**

Double trouble: How one family faced losing their holiday because of double-booking by the hotel in their holiday resort — until *The Times* stepped in .... **Page 34**

Coming after the law on the press which reduced to zero the cautious liberalisation of the last few years, that of political parties which aims to stifle all opposition and the new constitution which makes Islam the "religion of the state", the decision to bring Arabic into widespread use will accentuate the authoritarian character of the Algerian regime. It is certainly not the best way to fight fundamentalism — *Le Monde*

Preview: A women's football team, average age 82. *Women At Play* (Ch 4, 8pm). **Review:** Lynne Truss tries not to have nightmares ..... **Page 47**

Golden economy

The Tories have to persuade the public that prosperity is too precious to allow it to be put into Labour's untried hands .... **Page 17**

Annan of the UN

Allowing for the extraordinarily small pool of talent from which the UN permitted itself to pick, Mr Annan is a respectable if uninspiring choice .... **Page 17**

Red Cross bungle

The sincerity of today's Red Cross is not in doubt. But its leaders should ask themselves whether their efforts should not better be directed at helping the refugees in the countries from which they fled . **Page 17**

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Among the artists and scientists, one could not easily apply Crufts test of "best of breed", when designing the euro notes, if only because Britain would win too many prizes. Greatest European dramatist, Shakespeare; greatest scientist, Newton; greatest biologist, Darwin; greatest historian, Gibbon; greatest economist, Smith; greatest biographer, Boswell; greatest woman writer, Austen...... **Page 16**

MATTHEW PARRIS

The ethnic divide in the nations that straddle the Andes from Ecuador to Chile is one of the best-kept secrets in modern history. Because the inferior status of the South American Indians has never required the backing of law, nobody speaks of apartheid. The mistake the South African whites made was to write it down .... **Page 16**

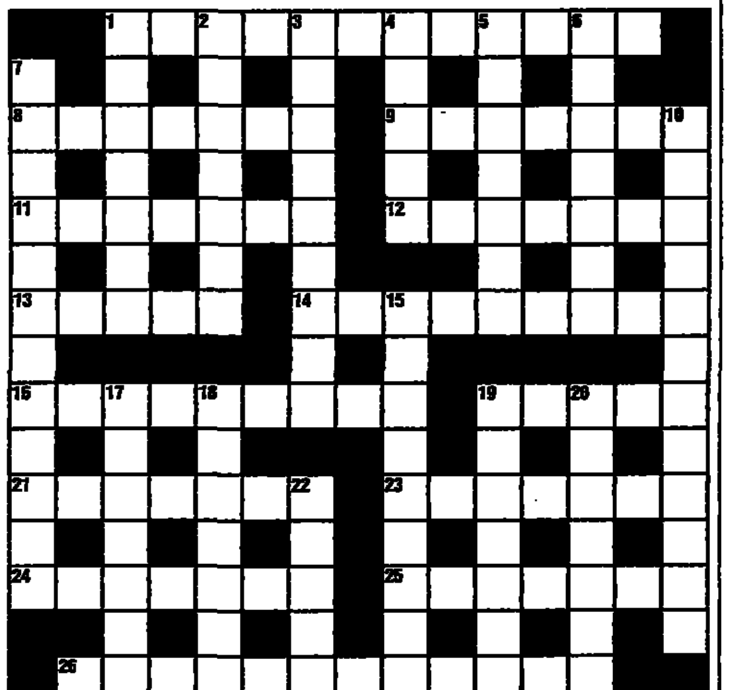
JOHN BRYANT

It is always sad to witness the extinction of a species. Within living memory the sporting landscape of Britain was well-stocked with a breed that is rarely glimpsed today — the Great All-Rounder ..**Page 38**

Joe Coral, bookmaker; **Michael Saunders**, Treasury Solicitor; **Irving Caesar**, lyricist .... **Page 19**

Saunders; car crash costs; Duke of Windsor "treachery"; anaesthetics; bullying at work .... **Page 17**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,355



ACROSS

1 Start a flood, perhaps, and so cause financial ruin (5,3,4).

8 Brouhaha about old film actress (7).

9 Credit cards don't wear out when covered in film (7).

11 Starts to return second National Insurance payment (7).

12 In a manner of speaking, not *subjecting to* VAT? (7).

13 Leaders of local authority respect good educationalists in comprehensive (5).

14 Wild animal sheltered by more mature vet in US (3,6).

16 Lamenting spoilt evening (9).

19 Fish renowned for fat-free diet (5).

21 Mighty queen has lost a cape (7).

23 American accessory demonstrating nerve and commitment (7).

24 Ordinary juror out in extraordinary cases (7).

25 Steel is not, ultimately, tempered enough (7).

26 Cheat some about undercooked regional dish (5,7).

DOWN

1 Metal worker making heater (7).

2 *Following god I have found to* be wearing (7).

3 This could replace broken set (9).

4 Large, clumsy creature makes cheer-leader potty (5).

5 Part of Belgium where unruly child must accept restriction (7).

6 Meagre amount of alcohol put around trifle (7).

7 Chips, perhaps, boy had with fish (12).

10 A bit of a fag — but only for the listener (9,3).

15 Ordered not to read primer (9).

17 One joining conservation body to overcome boorish trespass (7).

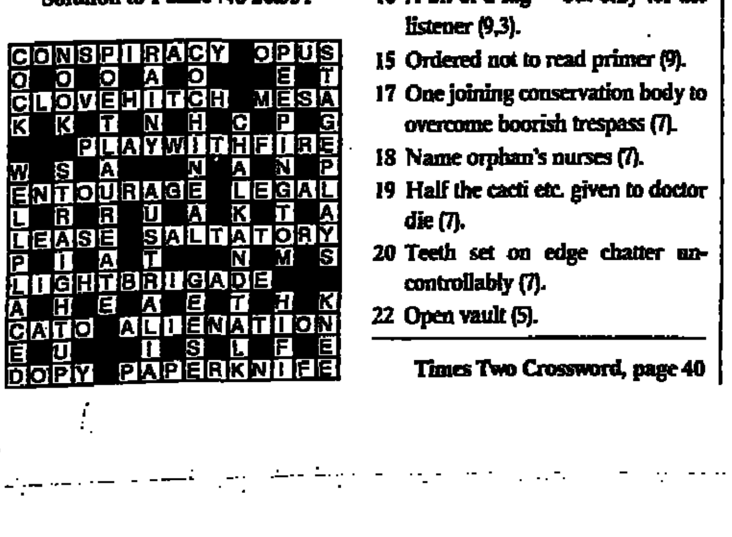
18 Name orphan's nurses (7).

19 Half the cacti etc. given to doctor die (7).

20 Teeth set on edge chatter uncontrollably (7).

22 Open vault (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,354



Times Two Crossword, page 40

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Penzance, Cornwall, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Sella Ness, Shetland, 3C (37F); highest rainfall: Drumalbin, South Lanarkshire, 1.26in; highest sunshine: Folkestone, Kent, 1.6hr.

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See Teletext p.354.
AirUK

□ **General:** England and Wales will be mostly cloudy with patchy drizzle, becoming more widespread in the south later. Northern England and North Wales will have rain for a time and snow on hills, but it should become brighter later. Temperatures mostly near normal.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have rain or drizzle for a time, falling as snow on Scottish hills, but brighter drier weather already over northern Scotland will extend south across most parts. It will be cold and breezy.

□ **London, E Anglia, E Midlands, W Midlands, S Wales:** rather cloudy. Patchy fog mostly clearing. Some drizzle in places, becoming more persistent later. Wind mainly east or northeast, light to moderate. Max 7C (45F).

□ **SE England, Central S England, Channel Isles, SW England:** cloudy with drizzle in places. Fog patches mostly clearing. Rain is expected later. Wind light and variable, becoming moderate easterly. Max 7C (45F).

□ **E England, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N England, NE England, Borders, SW Scotland:** rain at first, some sleet or snow on hills. Brighter, drier weather will spread from the north. Wind east or northeast, fresh to strong. Max 6C (43F).

□ **Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** mainly dry with clear or sunny spells. Wind east or northeast, generally fresh. Rather cold, max 5C (41F).

□ **N Ireland:** cloudy, occasional rain or drizzle. Wind easterly, moderate becoming fresh. Max 6C (43F).

□ **Outlook:** rain in south dying out. All areas then dry but becoming colder.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

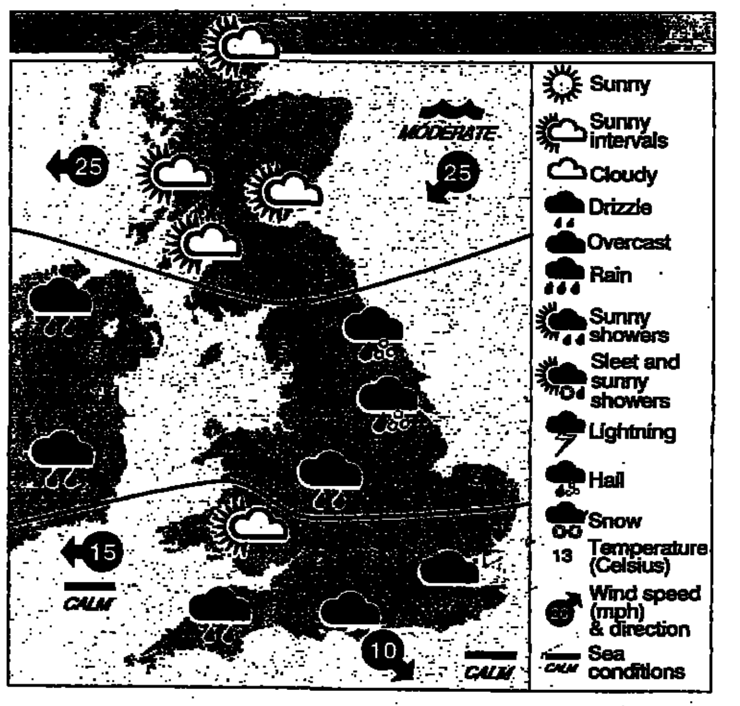
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	0.13	6	43	r	Lerwick	X				
Anglesey	-	0.14	10	50	d	Leuchars	-	1.07	7	45	r
Aspatria	-	0.36	7	45	r	Littlehmptn	0.5	0.04	11	52	d
Aviemore	X					London	-	0.02	12	54	c
Belfast	-	0.28	11	52	r	Lowestoft	-	0.02	9	48	fg
Birmingham	X					Manchester	X				
Bognor R	0.2	0.06	10	50	r	Margate	X	0.01	11	52	b
Bournem'th	X					Minehead	-	0.23	11	52	r
Bristol	-	0.43	11	52	r	Morecambe	-	0.21	10	50	r
Buxton	-	0.22	9	48	du	Newcastle	-	0.44	7	45	r
Cardiff	X					Newquay	-	0.11	13	55	d
Clacton	0.2	0.01	8	46	c	Norwich	0.1	0.01	10	50	b
Cleethorpes	X					Oxford	-	0.03	10	50	r
Colwyn Bay	-	0.02	13	55	c	Penzance	X	0.07	13	55	d
Cromer	-	0.01	10	50	du	Poole	-	0.17	11	52	r
Dunbar	X					Prestatyn	X	0.03	12	54	c
Eastbourne	0.4	0.02	10	50	c	Ross-o-wye	-	0.13	10	50	r
Edinburgh	X					Ryde	X				
Eskdalemuir	-	0.51	5	41	r	Sandown	0.1	0.09	9	48	r
Exmouth	-	0.72	10	50	r	Saunton Snd	-	0.35	11	52	r
Falmouth	-	0.24	13	55	c	Scarboro'	-	0.08	7	45	d
Fishguard	X					Shanklin	-	0.12	10	50	r
Folkestone	1.6	0.01	11	52	c	Shrewsbury	-	0.12	10	50	r
Glasgow	X					Skegness	-	0.01	9	48	c
Guernsey	-	0.24	11	52	r	Southend	X				
Hastings	0.2	0.01	11	52	c	Southsea	-	0.07	10	50	r
Hayling I	0.2	0.06	10	50	sh	Stornoway	-	0.02	7	45	r
Herne Bay	X					Swanage	-	0.10	11	52	r
Hove	0.5	0.01	10	50	b	Teignmouth	-	0.50	11	52	r
Hunstanton	-	-	10	50	c	Tiree	X				
Isle of Man	X					Torquay	-	0.45	11	52	r
Jersey	-	0.39	9	48	r	Ventnor	0.3	0.09	11	52	r
Kinloss	-	0.03	5	41	r	West-s-mare	-	0.40	10	50	r
Leeds	-	0.15	8	46	r	Weymouth	-	0.20	11	52	r

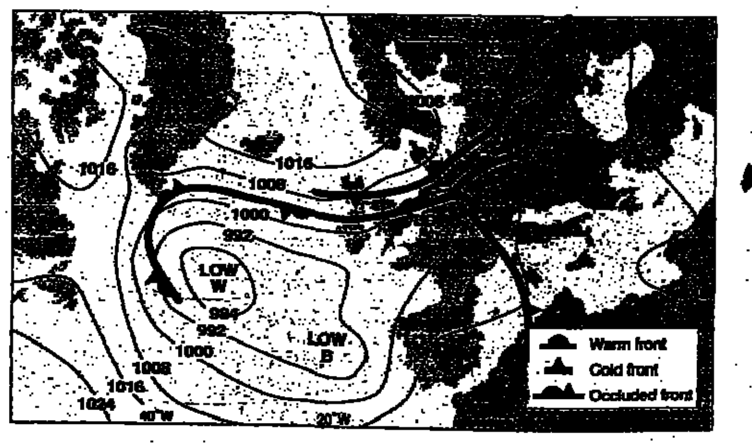
ABROAD

Ajaccio	14	57	c	Corfu	17	63	f	Majorca	15	59	s	Rome	15	59	f
Akrotiri	19	66	s	C'phagn	2	36	fg	Malaga	14	57	d	S Fr'isco	13	55	f
Alex'dria	21	70	s	Dublin	7	45	d	Malta	19	66	f	S Paulo	24	75	s
Algiers	17	63	f	Dubrovnik	14	57	s	Melb'rne	18	64	c	Salzburg	6	43	s
Amst'dm	4	39	fg	Faro	18	64	c	Mexico C	18	64	s	Santiago	32	90	s
Athens	17	63	s	Florence	10	50	c	Miami	23	73	s	Seoul	7	45	f
B Aires	28	82	f	Frankfurt	2	36	r	Milan	8	46	fg	Sing'por	32	90	f
Bahrain	20	68	s	Funchal	19	66	r	Montreal	4	39	f	St'kholm	-6	21	s
Bangkok	30	86	c	Geneva	10	50	f	Moscow	-4	25	r	Strasb'rg	5	41	f
Barbados	29	84	c	Gibraltar	14	57	r	Munich	6	43	s	Sydney	19	66	c
Barcelona	10	50	c	Helsinki	-6	21	s	N Delhi	21	70	s	Tangier	20	68	f
Beirut	19	66	f	Hong K	25	77	s	N York	12	54	fg	Tel Aviv	20	68	s
Belgrade	9	48	c	Innsbrck	4	39	s	Nairobi	27	81	c	Tenerife	25	77	s
Berlin	2	36	r	Istanbul	12	54	s	Naples	X			Tokyo	17	63	f
Bermuda	20	68	f	Jeddah	29	84	s	Nice	14	57	f	Toronto	6	43	r
Biarritz	17	63	s	Jo'burg	26	79	f	Oslo	-6	21	f	Tunis	17	63	f
Borde'x	13	55	s	L Angels	19	66	c	Paris	5	41	d	Valencia	13	55	f
Brussels	3	37	r	L Palmas	24	75	s	Peking	-3	27	s	Vanc'ver	3	37	s
Budapest	2	36	f	Le Touquet	5	41	f	Perth	28	82	s	Venice	6	43	c
Cairo	21	70	s	Lisbon	18	64	c	Prague	2	36	f	Vienna	0	32	c
Cape Tn	18	64	c	Locarno	8	46	c	Reykjavik	0	32	c	Warsaw	1	34	c
Ch'church	X			Luxembg	2	36	r	Rhodes	18	64	s	Wash'ton	X		
Chicago	-2	28	sn	Luxor	23	73	s	Rio de J	31	88	f	Wel'ngton	17	63	X
Cologne	3	37	r	Madrid	8	46	r	Riyadh	X			Zurich	5	41	f

Temperatures at midday local time on Tuesday. X = not available



Changes to the chart below from noon: lows B and W will move southeast with little change; low O will move east and fill; low T will lose its identity



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	8:23	6.2	9:11	6.4	Leith	9:44	4.8	10:09	4.9
Aberdeen	8:47	3.8	8:54	3.8	Liverpool	6:10	8.0	6:38	8.2
Avonmouth	1:41	10.9	2:24	11.1	Lowestoft	3:59	2.3	5:17	2.2
Belfast	6:10	3.1	6:32	3.3	Margate	6:36	4.2	7:35	4.2
Cardiff	1:33	10.1	2:10	10.4	Milford Haven	0:56	5.7	1:30	6.0
Devonport	0:25	4.7	12:53	4.8	Newquay	12:27	5.9	-	-
Dover	5:52	5.9	6:44	5.7	Oban	0:37	3.0	1:41	3.4
Dublin (N Wall)	6:57	3.7	7:09	3.8	Penzance	11:55	4.8	-	-
Falmouth	12:26	4.6	-	-	Portland	1:07	1.6	1:35	1.6
Greenock	7:17	3.1	7:52	3.2	Portsmouth	6:15	4.3	6:45	4.1
Harwich	6:20	3.5	7:08	3.5	Shoreham	6:04	5.4	6:42	5.2
Holyhead	5:30	4.8	5:49	5.0	Southampton	5:43	4.2	6:12	4.0
Hull (Albert D)	0:36	6.8	1:35	6.5	Swansea	0:58	7.8	1:35	8.1
Ilfracombe	0:33	7.6	1:14	7.8	Tees	10:58	4.6	11:14	4.7
King's Lynn	0:48	5.9	1:38	6.5	Walton-on-Naze	6:18	3.8	7:05	3.7

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Sun rises: 8.03 am
Sun sets: 3.53 pm
Moon sets 1.50 am
Moon rises 1.02 pm

Full moon December 24

London 3.53 pm to 8.04 am
Bristol 4.03 pm to 8.13 am
Edinburgh 3.39 pm to 8.42 am
Manchester 3.50 pm to 8.23 am
Penzance 4.21 pm to 8.18 am

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY DECEMBER 19 1996

Clarke buoyant on economy after record fall in unemployment

Jobless below 2 million

By Philip Bassett, industrial editor

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, forecast yesterday that Britain's economy will continue to strengthen in the run-up to the general election after a huge fall in unemployment took the number of people out of work to below two million.

Unemployment, seasonally adjusted, fell 95,800 — the *largest single drop since current* records began, and the biggest monthly decline since just after the Second World War. Ministers lined up to cheerlead the enormous drop in claimant unemployment, with Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, linking it to yesterday's good retail sales figures to show that "people realise the *recovery is here to stay, and they* themselves are taking the recovery into account".

Mr Clarke called the fall to below two million — the first time it has been below this threshold since 1991 — an "important breakthrough", and said that strong growth and economic recovery in Britain was now getting unemployment down and creating more jobs. He said his "confident expectation is that the economy is going to continue to strengthen", and he denied suggestions from City *economists that the labour* market was overheating, and that the figures would lead to a rise in interest rates.

Undeniable present 25

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, attacked Labour "sneers" at Britain's economic performance, while Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, gave warning that *Labour's plans to sign the* European social chapter and introduce a national minimum wage would, if enacted, send UK unemployment back up to three million.

Labour poured scorn on the Government's figures, saying that "more people believe in Santa Claus" than in the official unemployment count. *John Prescott, Labour's Depu*ty Leader, said: "After years of fiddling the claimant figures, with more than 30 changes since 1979, the Tories can now claim that unemployment is below two million. The problem is no one believes their bogus figures." Ministers and Whitehall officials were taken aback by the size of the fall, the largest since the current series of seasonally adjusted figures began in January 1971, and the biggest since the then-Ministry of Labour introduced adjusted figures in 1948.

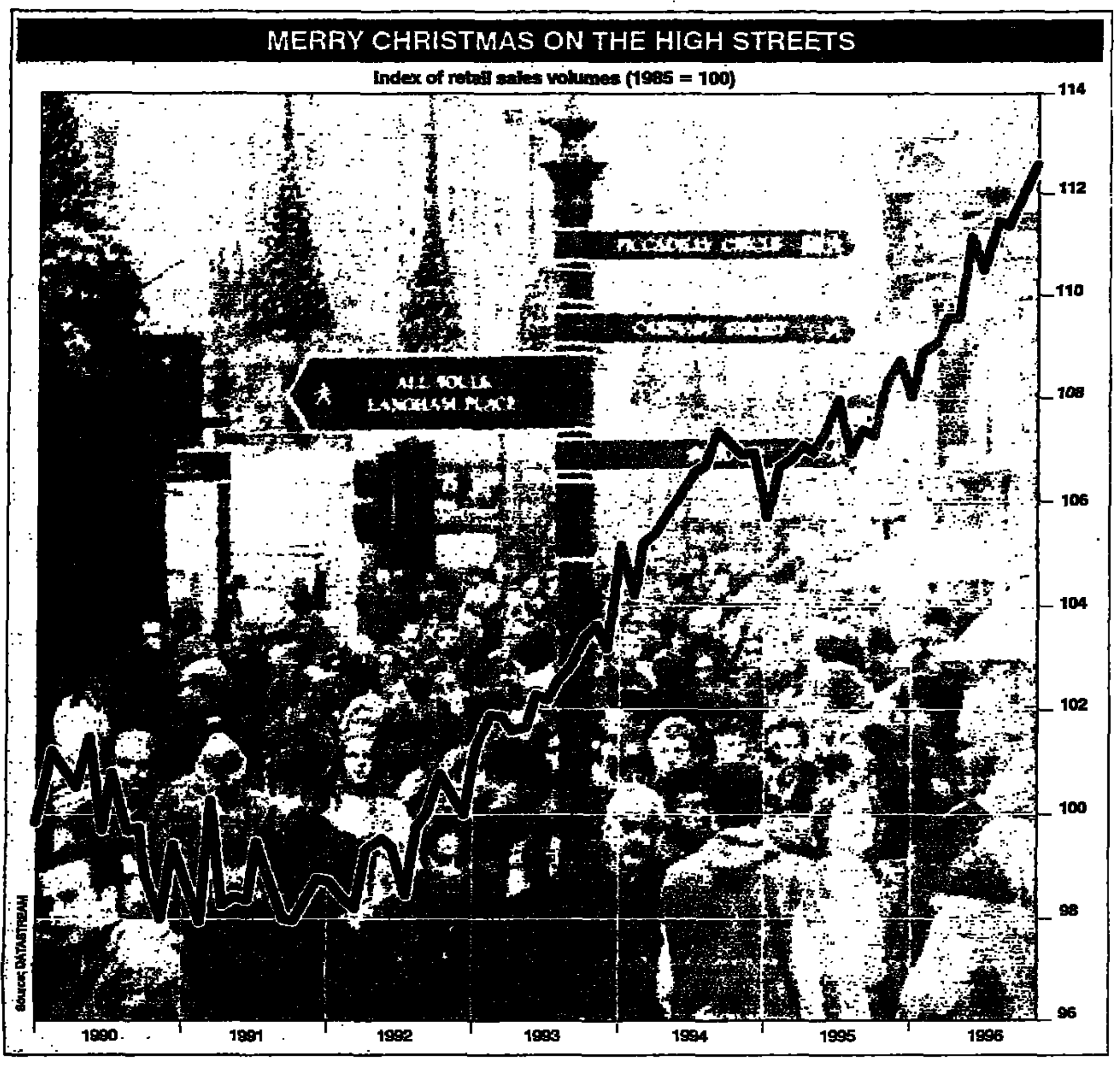
Claimant unemployment fell 95,800 in November to 1,925.4 million — a rate of 6.9 per cent, *down* from 7.2 per cent the previous month. The unemployment rate in Northern Ireland droppped below 10 per cent, to 9.9, for the first time in 15 years.

Unadjusted unemployment — the actual number of people out of work and successfully claiming benefit — went through the two million barrier *last month, and fell again* in November by 105,837 to 1,871,398. The adjusted decline means that unemployment has now fallen by more than one million from its peak in December 1992.

Whitehall officials stressed a number of special factors behind the figure, including temporary work at Christmas and the *first full* month of the jobseeker's allowance. Government economists stressed that, even with such factors, the figures still showed a "very substantial" fall in the claimant count.

New figures on employment showed the number of jobs up by 264,000 on a year ago, while the rise in average *earnings was steady for the* fourth successive month at 4 per cent.

Tory present, page 25



Good tidings for Christmas sales

By Janet Bush, economics correspondent

RETAIL sales showed healthier than expected gains in November which, together with yesterday's news of a huge fall in unemployment, raised City expectations that base rates will have to rise again in the new year.

Verdict Research, the retail consultants, said in a report published today that Christmas trade is expected to be the best for eight years but that there is no boom in prospect. It gave warning that the usual cat and mouse games played between shoppers and retailers each Christmas are still dominating high streets this year and that not all retailers are expected to share in the shopping spree.

Verdict noted that a number of clothing and footwear retailers have introduced pre-Christmas sales to entice shoppers to spend.

Nevertheless, the group is expecting the value of retail sales to be worth just under £20 billion for December in total. This is a rise of 7.7 per cent compared with last year and easily the best level of trade since 1988. "With the average household spending nearly £1,000 during December, the consumer recovery is well and truly here," Verdict said.

Retail sales volumes rose 0.7 per cent, according to the latest figures from the Office for National Statistics. This was a somewhat larger increase than the 0.5 per cent rise the City had been expecting but still left year-on-year growth in sales slightly lower. Annual growth was 3.9 per cent in November compared with 4.1 per cent in October.

Short sterling futures contracts, traded on the Liffe market and the best guide to market interest rate expectations, slumped yesterday as expectations of base-rate rises in the spring increased.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, yesterday said that he remained unflinching in his determination to hit the Government's inflation target but said that inflationary pressures in the economy remained "quite reasonable".

The City was yesterday concerned that, despite plunging producer price inflation, strong consumer demand will encourage retailers to raise their margins rather than take advantage of lower prices from their industrial suppliers to keep a cap on their prices.

Some economists — without *the benefit of Verdict's comment* on the sector — noted that clothing and footwear sales rose 2 per cent in November despite a price rise in the sector of 1.1 per cent in the month. John O'Sullivan of NatWest Markets said: "This is clear evidence that the momentum behind high street spending is eroding consumers' sensitivity to price increases."

Pennington, page 23

Woolwich to fight ending of takeover safeguard

By Anne Ashworth

THE Woolwich has pledged that it will fight to amend the Building Societies Bill published yesterday.

The society emphasised that the Bill's proposal to remove the five-year takeover protection period for societies that become banks could hamper its £3 billion flotation. But there is, as yet, no sign that the society would be prepared to abandon its plans before the distribution next month of its transfer document setting out the details of its conversion.

Angela Knight, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, has refused to bow to demands to retain the protective ring, which will be lifted if a newly floated society embarks on the takeover trail. In a statement, the Woolwich said: "We are disappointed the minister has chosen to ignore our serious concerns with regard to the timing of *this Bill.*"

A Woolwich spokeswoman said that the society had recommended to the minister that societies could continue to be safeguarded against predators if they engaged only in friendly takeovers. She continued: "Had the Woolwich known that a change of this magnitude was even a possibility, *we may have followed* a different path to conversion."

Previously, the most fervent opponent of the abolition of the protection period has been the Alliance & Leicester. This society said yesterday that it shared the Woolwich's misgivings and disappointment. Last month, Peter White, the society's chief executive, gave a *warning that its conversion*, scheduled for next April, could be in doubt if the five-year protection period was abolished.

Explaining why she had declined to retain the safeguard, Mrs Knight commented: "If you choose to go to the market you have to play by the rules." She remains quietly confident that parliamentary time will be found for the Bill whose contents met with the approval of the Building Societies Association and several societies that are pledged to *retain their mutuality*.

Pennington, page 23

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4018.2	(+32.6)
Yield	3.95%	
FTSE All share	1965.31	(+15.86)
Nikkei	20093.03	(-320.43)
New York:		
Dow Jones	6341.01	(+32.63)*
S&P Composite	731.11	(+5.07)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5[illegible]%*	(5¼%)
Long Bond	98[illegible]*	(97[illegible])
Yield	6.65%*	(6.66%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6[illegible]%	(6[illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	$108\frac{11}{16}$	($108\frac{11}{16}$)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6723*	(1.6717)
London:		
$	1.6725	(1.6729)
DM	2.5998	(2.5853)
FFr	8.7860	(8.7255)
SFr	2.2273	(2.2087)
Yen	190.10	(190.31)
£ Index	94.4	(94.0)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.5536*	(1.5500)
FFr	5.2522*	(5.2300)
SFr	1.3320*	(1.3260)
Yen	113.60*	(113.85)
$ Index	98.2	(98.1)

Tokyo close Yen 113.39

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Mar)	$22.70	($23.05)

GOLD

London close	$369.05	($368.95)

* denotes midday trading price

Pensions Act limits loans to employers

By Robert Miller

NEW rules to prevent trustees lending pension scheme cash to their employer were laid before Parliament yesterday.

From April occupational *schemes cannot make loans* or give financial guarantees to their sponsoring business. The rules form part of the Pensions Act, drawn up after the £400 million losses sustained by the Maxwell pension funds. They still restrict schemes to a maximum 5 per cent self-investment in the parent company, but tighten the 1992 rules.

Oliver Heald, Pensions Minister, said: "These proposals could save people's pension if the company fails. They prevent employers using the pen*sion scheme as a soft option*, rather than conventional lending outlets, such as banks."

London Electricity agrees deal

By Christine Buckley, industrial correspondent

LONDON ELECTRICITY is set for a £1.26 billion takeover by Entergy of America after agreeing a deal that leaves just two of Britain's regional electricity companies independent and without bid offers.

The move means that half of the electricity supply businesses in England and Wales could soon be in US hands. US concerns *have bought three* companies; Northern Electric is subject to a hostile bid from a US grouping; and the Government yesterday cleared a bid by Dominion Resources, of Virginia, for East Midlands Electricity.

Four London Electricity directors are set to make a profit *of just under* £1 million from share options on the 705p a share bid, which marks a 27 per cent premium on the share price in late October when news leaked of Entergy's talks.

Shares in Southern Electric and Yorkshire Electricity, the two without bid offers, increased *as the market predict*ed a complete clear-out.

Terry Ogletree, president of Entergy Power Group, said the purchase of London fitted the business's international strategy. But he emphasised that London's future as the competitive market for household electricity approached lay in joint ventures and links.

He declined to confirm speculation that London had sealed a supply link with Northern, but he said that would be an appropriate move.

Thames Water said a take*over of London would not end* existing links between the companies.

Sir Bob Reid, chairman of London Electricity, who met Ed Lupberger, chief executive officer of Entergy Power UK, yesterday, said: "Tapping into the resources of the Entergy group, both human and financial, will provide a solid foundation for the *future* development of the company."

Pennington, page 23

Lupberger: in meeting

BA sells USAir stake en route to American

By Oliver August

BRITISH AIRWAYS is to sell its 24.6 per cent stake in USAir in preparation for its alliance with American Airlines. BA, which paid $400 million for the shares in 1993, has given USAir 60 days to make an offer *before other airlines* will be invited to bid.

Although BA was obliged, under US accounting rules, to write down the value of the stake by half, it is worth around $425 million at current market prices.

The link with USAir has been overshadowed by the proposed alliance with American. Incensed by BA's planned link-up with American, USAir is suing BA in a US federal court and has said it would end its code-sharing pact early next year. The *move was not demanded* by regulators who only stipulated that USAir should be free to compete on transatlantic routes.

Newcastle United ready to set £160m flotation goal

By Jason Nissé

NEWCASTLE UNITED will announce plans today for a £160 million flotation, making it the second largest quoted football club *after Manchester United*.

The proceeds will be used to fund a £40 million, 60,000-seater stadium, which has still to receive final planning permission from Newcastle City Council, and pay off a large portion of the £60 million invested in the club by Sir John Hall, its chairman, who owns 90 per cent of the shares.

The float, first revealed in *The Times* in June, will value the club at four times *the projected turnover for the 1996-97* season, in spite of the club recording an £11 million loss last year and expecting a large deficit this year. Newcastle writes off the cost of players as soon as they are bought and has spent more than £60 million over five years.

Sir John had hoped to float the group as a sporting club, including his rugby, *ice hockey*, basketball and motor racing teams. But these have now been placed in another company and there is speculation that Sir John may stand down as chairman after the float.

It will be the third club to announce its flotation this week and the sixth this month. Yesterday Sheffield United confirmed plans for its reverse takeover by Conrad, the leisurewear group. The club is also raising £12.5 million to pay for redevelopment of its stadium.

West Bromwich Albion, in the Nationwide first division, is to join the Alternative Investment Market.

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Ringing the changes on overseas phone prices

By Eric Reguly

THE Government today will lay the groundwork for sharp reductions in the prices of overseas phone calls by increasing the number of international licences to more than 40.

The new licences will mark the end of an era for British Telecom and Mercury Communications, which were the only operators allowed to own networks for international telecommunications services.

Competitors had no choice but to lease capacity from them at prices they claimed were too high and bore no relation to the actual costs.

Under the new licences, phone companies may buy permanent capacity from the owners of undersea cables and satellites, giving them more flexibility to set retail prices. That, combined with the sheer number of additional competitors, will bring down prices next year.

Long Distance International, a US phone company that expects to win an overseas licence, believes that prices could fall by as much as half by this time next year. Tim Parsonson, general manager of LDI's British operations, said: "We will have more control over our network, which will reduce our underlying costs dramatically. That means we can pass savings to customers."

The Department of Trade and Industry is awarding licences to virtually any phone company that has made an application, with no discrimination between domestic and foreign bidders.

The probable winners include AT&T, America's biggest long-distance carrier, France Telecom, Deutsche Telekom, several cable companies and Energis, the telecoms arm of the National Grid.

BT is bracing for the onslaught of new competition. In recent months, it has slashed the prices of transatlantic calls in an effort to give the new licence holders less room to manoeuvre. Calls to Continental Europe and Asia have not declined as much.

Nonetheless, BT expects to lose market share on most, perhaps all, of its international routes. The company, however, may not actually suffer a decline in call revenue if the lower prices generate more volume. BT has been able to offset falling domestic market share with higher call volume and thinks a similar pattern could be repeated overseas.

Breaking the BT-Mercury duopoly has not been the Government's only goal. The DTI hopes that the new international licences will secure Britain's position as Europe's main telecoms "hub". London has attracted more foreign phone companies than any European city and the increasingly liberal telecoms market should draw in even more players.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

SIB aims to improve metal exchange deals

THE Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the City's chief watchdog, will today unveil a series of measures designed to make metal transactions on the London Metal Exchange more transparent in the wake of the $2.6 billion losses sustained by Sumitomo Corporation this year.

The Securities and Investments Board, headed by Sir Andrew Large, is expected to accept the metal exchange's submission that it is, on the whole, well-regulated. However, besides reforms to the metal transaction reporting system, the watchdog will also call for improvements on issues such as the exchange's governance. Concerns have also been expressed that metal exchange members have too much control over the way the exchange is run. The exchange last year contributed £250 million to the Treasury's coffer. The metal exchange was the first to raise the alarm over the alleged fraudulent copper transactions of Yasuo Hamanaka, the former chief trader at Sumitomo, back in 1991. In spite of the metal exchange's concerns, which where reported immediately to the SIB, Mr Hamanka, who is currently being held in custody by the Japanese authorities, was allowed to continue to dominate the market.

Injunction blow for BT

THE High Court has refused to grant British Telecom an injunction that would have prevented rival AT&T, America's largest long-distance carrier, from advertising comparative price rates in the UK. The ruling came four months after BT served a writ on AT&T, alleging that it had infringed BT's trademark and "maliciously" made false statements about BT's service. AT&T had been claiming that consumers could save up to 40 per cent on BT's international call rates by switching to AT&T.

Oceonics to sell unit

OCEONICS, the troubled UK marine services group, is poised to sell its loss-making survey and positioning activities to Fugro, the Dutch survey and geotechnical company, for an estimated £6.5 million. If the sale goes ahead, the group will still own 46 per cent of Gall Thomson Environmental, which was floated on the Alternative Investment Market in August. Oceonics reported pre-tax profits of £2.69 million for the half year to September 30 (£1.6 million loss). Earnings were 3.9p a share (5.1p loss). There is again no interim dividend.

Orders climb at Siebe

SIEBE, the engineering group, yesterday announced new orders with a total value of £150 million. The orders come from international customers in the chemical, oil, gas, power and semiconductor sectors. In the power generation sector, Siebe has grown its segmental market share with systems orders totalling £85 million for projects in Australia, Puerto Rico, America and the Middle and Far East. The need to upgrade plants in response to increasing regulation in the power industry offers Siebe new sales opportunities.

Creighton's fund-raiser

CREIGHTON'S NATURALLY, the toiletries manufacturer, is raising £3.1 million through a placing and open offer of new shares at 23p each to reduce borrowings and provide additional working capital. Existing shares fell 12½p to 27½p. The company had losses of £1.4 million (£500,000 losses) in the six months to September 30. Exceptional charges were £1.5 million. John Carr, chairman, said: "The proposals will give us a solid base from which to develop the existing business of Creighton's and to seek acquisitions which provide a basis for future growth."

Wessex plan to buy back shares could cost £240m

By Martin Barrow, deputy business editor

WESSEX WATER is proposing to buy back up to 25 per cent of its shares at a cost of up to £240 million.

The capital restructuring, announced yesterday, comes after the decision by the Department of Trade and Industry last month to block the company's takeover bid for South West Water, the neighbouring utility.

The proposals include the purchase, at a cost of £157.1 million, of most of the shares held in Wessex by Waste Management International. WMI's interest in the company will fall to 3.3 per cent, from 19.5 per cent. Wessex has agreed to pay WMI no less than 355p a share. WMI's options to acquire 10.6 million Wessex shares will be cancelled.

Wessex also proposes a tender offer for 10 per cent of the ordinary shares not held by WMI at 380p each, against yesterday's stock market price of 367½p and at a 7 per cent premium to the price agreed with WMI. Assuming a full take-up, this would be completed at a cost of £79.5 million.

Private investors holding no more than 200 shares are also able to sell the shares under the tender offer, enabling full realisation of their investment without dealing costs. All ordinary shareholders will remain entitled to receive the 5.7p a share interim dividend on shares purchased under the tender offer.

Nicholas Hood, chairman, said the tender offer and repurchase "will materially enhance Wessex Water's ability to increase earnings per share, improve the company's ability to pay increased dividends per share and simplify the capital structure".

He added: "Following the share capital restructuring there will be sufficient funding capacity available to meet the investment requirements of the water and waste business and to pursue other opportunities."

WMI acquired an initial shareholding in Wessex in 1991, and together the companies established Wessex Waste Management as a joint venture. The equity transaction will have no operational impact on WWM.

WMI, which is controlled by America's WMX Technologies, said that the transaction will give rise to a £37.5 million charge after tax. WMI obtained a share listing in London in 1992 by way of a placing at 585p a share. Yesterday the shares fell 1p, to 262p.

Under a previous agreement, WMI was precluded from selling its interest in Wessex until early 1998.

When the Wessex transaction is completed WMX will have generated $1 billion in cash from the disposal of assets as it seeks to reduce debts and focus on better-performing businesses.

Limerick wins 400 new jobs

Eastman Kodak, the photographic equipment company, is to invest Ir£100 million in a new factory in Limerick, in the southwest of Ireland.

The new plant will produce film cassettes for the recently launched advanced photo system (APS) range of equipment and will create 400 new jobs within four years.

APS is a new generation of photographic equipment that has taken the US market by storm. APS photographs can be printed or put on to computer discs or CD-Roms.

Zergo profits

Zergo Holdings, the supplier of information security solutions, earned pretax profits of £237,000 in the half year to October 31, compared with a loss of £479,000 in the first half of the previous year.

Earnings were 1.81p a share, against losses of 5.47p last time. There is again no interim dividend. At October 31 the order book was 64 per cent higher at £4 million.

R&N higher

Rolfe & Nolan, the global derivatives and treasury management systems and services provider, had pretax profits of £1.11 million for the half year to August 31, against £1.07 million previously. Earnings were 5.57p a share (5.35p). The interim dividend is increased to 1.7p a share from 1.6p, due January 28.

TONY WHITE

Pleasant reading: Brian Ingleby, chief executive, right, and Gerry Connolly, finance director, saw pre-tax profits at Dawson Holdings, the provider of information-related services, rise to £9.8 million (£3.5 million) in the year to September 30. Results benefited from the purchase of the 57.5 per cent interest not already held in Surridge Dawson, and the integration of the American library supply business around Faxon. A 28p final dividend gives a 40p (30p) total.

Engineering buoyant 'but exports lose ground'

By Philip Bassett

ENGINEERING leaders said yesterday that the industry is seeing renewed growth — but gave a warning that export orders, which have been vital to economic recovery, were slipping back and being outperformed by the UK market.

In their latest business trends survey, leaders of the Engineering Employers Federation said that output, orders, employment and investment were all stronger than in September, and had broadly regained their levels of this time last year.

Output growth in engineering accelerated in the fourth quarter, the EEF said after surveying more than 1,700 member companies, with the net balance reporting an increase in output standing at 25 per cent, the highest this year.

For the first time since the start of last year home demand is more buoyant than export markets, with a balance of 15 per cent of companies reporting higher UK orders, and 10 per cent saying that exports are rising.

On jobs, the EEF said only that in the face of such overall growth there may now be a rise in employment numbers, while it reported that most engineering companies recorded unchanged plans for capital spending.

Alan Armitage, economics head at the EEF, said the results were encouraging: "During the middle of the year it had seemed that some of the momentum had gone from the steady recovery. However, these results suggest a picture of renewed growth."

Users welcome gas rivalry

By Christine Buckley, industrial correspondent

GAS consumers in the South West, where companies are fighting British Gas for business, have given a vote of confidence for competition in the industry.

A majority of households told a MORI poll they welcomed rivalry in gas supply because it brings prices down and keeps companies on their toes. Sixty-six per cent of people questioned in Devon, Cornwall and Somerset said competition was a good or fairly good idea. But the numbers switching supplier remain subdued. Ofgas said yesterday that nearly 17 per cent, or 84,700 homes, of the 500,000 able to shop around had moved from British Gas.

The majority of those changing in the South West said they had done so for price rather than out of dissatisfaction with British Gas's service. Doorstep sales, which have caused considerable controversy, were surprisingly well received. More than half of those people who had had face-to-face contact with gas sales people said they were satisfied, with 23 per cent complaining that they were not.

De Beers demands Russian sales pact

DE BEERS, the South African diamond giant, has threatened to leave Russia in the cold if a new sales pact is not clinched soon. The group, announcing record sales of rough gems, said it was not prepared to continue to buy diamonds under a temporary arrangement beyond the end of the year.

Russia provides about 20 per cent of diamonds sold through the marketing arm of De Beers, the Central Selling Organisation (CSO), which itself has a stranglehold on world trade. It sells about 75 per cent of newly mined diamonds sold worldwide and spends significant sums buying up "outside" supplies from territories like Angola. The CSO broke with the Argyle mine in Australia in June, losing an additional 6 per cent of rough sales.

De Beers has been sitting on a revised deal with Russia for most of the year and has grown increasingly frustrated with the lack of progress. The previous accord, signed in 1989, left De Beers obliged to accept large parcels of gems despite a high "leakage" of diamonds outside the CSO net. A spokesman said: "We are tired of being a buyer of last resort."

Delays have been blamed on ministries and business elements fighting to capitalise on gem sales. From January 1, the CSO will no longer be obliged to buy Russian diamonds if agreement has not been reached.

The uncertainties failed to dent CSO sales of rough diamonds, which rose to a record $4.8 billion in 1996, a rise of 7 per cent. There was some disruption in cutting centres in India after Argyle's decision to market its diamonds direct, but second-half sales remained strong at $2.1 million.

Tempus, page 24

Western launches $3.5bn bid for ADT

From Richard Thomson in New York

WESTERN RESOURCES has launched a $3.5 billion takeover bid for ADT, the security and car auction group headed by Michael Ashcroft.

The takeover would create by far the largest security company in America, where ADT is already the market leader and Western is the third largest after its takeover of Westinghouse Securities Systems three days ago.

If successful, Mr Ashcroft is likely to be ousted from the company he built up during the 1980s. Western, which already owns 27 per cent of ADT, has convened a special meeting of ADT shareholders to replace the board before completing the takeover. ADT is expected to reject the bid.

Two months ago Republic Industries, the waste disposal and auctions group run by Wayne Huizenga, the entrepreneur, allowed a $5 billion all-shares bid for ADT to lapse after Republic's shares fell heavily, reducing the value of the offer.

Western is offering $22.50 for each ADT share in cash and shares, giving a 12 per cent premium over the company's closing price of $20.125 in New York on Tuesday.

While Mr Ashcroft had a close relationship with Mr Huizenga, who owns the land on which ADT's Boca Raton headquarters stands, he is not friendly with Western. However, he would make about $100 million dollars from the takeover.

Western is likely to keep the security business of ADT while spinning-off the car auction operation, which is one of the largest in the US. ADT's European car auction business was sold earlier this year.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.21	2.05
Austria Sch	19.18	17.88
Belgium Fr	56.18	51.88
Canada $	2.384	2.224
Cyprus Cyp£	0.815	0.760
Denmark Kr	10.45	9.85
Finland Mkk	8.29	7.64
France Fr	9.12	8.47
Germany Dm	2.74	2.53
Greece Dr	425	400
Hong Kong $	13.55	12.55
Iceland	120	100
Ireland Pt	1.06	0.98
Israel Shk	5.76	5.11
Italy Lira	2654	2499
Japan Yen	203.50	187.50
Malta	0.641	0.586
Netherlds Gld	3.047	2.817
New Zealand $	2.51	2.29
Norway Kr	11.31	10.51
Portugal Esc	271.50	253.00
S Africa Rd	8.46	7.86
Spain Pta	224.50	211.50
Sweden Kr	12.01	11.21
Switzerland Fr	2.33	2.15
Turkey Lira	182400	170400
USA $	1.768	1.638

Rates for small denomination bank notes as supplied by Barclays Bank. Other rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Lloyd's test cases get under way

By Jon Ashworth

LLOYD'S OF LONDON goes to court today in the next stage of its drawn-out battle with non-paying names. Lloyd's is seeking to establish a benchmark with respect to recovering outstanding funds. Judgment could be postponed until after Christmas.

Lloyd's hopes to secure so-called Order 14 judgments in three test cases, setting the tone for future action. It is focusing on individuals who have refused to pay premiums to Equitas, the reinsurance company set up to take on the institution's old liabilities. Non-payment on grounds of alleged fraud will not feature in today's hearing. It will be dealt with separately in the new year.

More than 870 writs have been issued so far against 548 non-paying names in the UK and abroad. About 1,850 names owed £496 million when the action commenced, but a steady number have come forward requesting talks. Debt recoveries are being led by Philip Holden, who is on secondment to Lloyd's from the firm of Dibb Lupton Alsop.

Another law firm, Freshfields, is working on today's action. Gordon Pollock, QC, acting for Lloyd's, is likely to draw heavily on the settlement offer document. Steps to recover debts got underway after a majority of names endorsed the Lloyd's Reconstruction and Renewal (R&R) plan. Tony Gooda, the disgraced underwriter, and Robin Kingsley, chairman of the Lime Street Agency, are among those to have received writs.

□ The number of individual names underwriting at Lloyd's is set to fall sharply next year. Lloyd's says that 9,972 names will supply £5.8 billion of capacity, down from 12,798 in 1996. The balance of £4.5 billion (£3.04 billion) will come from 202 corporate and limited liability names, leaving allocated capacity little changed at £10.3 billion.

A softer image, page 25

BRADFORD & BINGLEY'S NEW RATES OF INTEREST EFFECTIVE FROM 20 DECEMBER 1996

		Annual Interest		Monthly Interest	
Account	Balance	Gross % p.a.	Net Equiv. % p.a.	Gross % p.a.	Net Equiv. % p.a.
TIMESAVER*	£1+ (Base Rate)	0.25	0.20	–	–
	£100+	0.50	0.40	–	–
	£500+	1.00	0.80	–	–
	£2,500+	1.60	1.28	–	–
	£10,000+	2.10	1.68	–	–
	£25,000+	2.60	2.08	–	–
Premier Deposit*	£1+	0.25	0.20	–	–
	£100+	1.60	1.28	–	–
	£10,000+	3.00	2.40	–	–
	£25,000+	3.75	3.00	–	–
First Choice§ (Including Bonus)	£50+	1.25	1.00	–	–
	£500+	2.55	2.04	–	–
	£2,500+	2.85	2.28	–	–
	£10,000+	3.40	2.72	–	–
	£25,000+	3.80	3.04	–	–
Bonus Account (Including Bonus)	£500+	2.60	2.08	–	–
	£2,500+	2.90	2.32	–	–
	£10,000+	3.45	2.76	–	–
	£25,000+	3.85	3.08	–	–
One Month Notice	£500+	2.00	1.60	1.95	1.56
	£2,500+	2.30	1.84	2.20	1.76
	£10,000+	2.80	2.24	2.65	2.12
	£25,000+	3.30	2.64	3.15	2.52
	£50,000+	4.00	3.20	3.80	3.04
Special Asset	£2,500+	3.30	2.64	3.20	2.56
	£5,000+	3.55	2.84	3.45	2.76
	£10,000+	4.35	3.48	4.20	3.36
	£20,000+	4.60	3.68	4.40	3.52
	£40,000+	4.90	3.92	4.70	3.76
	£80,000+	5.25	4.20	5.05	4.04
Bonus 120 Account (Including Bonus)	£5,000+	5.40	4.32	5.20	4.16
	£30,000+	5.80	4.64	5.55	4.44
	£50,000+	5.95	4.76	5.70	4.56
	£100,000+	6.30	5.04	6.05	4.84
Monthly Saver (Premium Rate) @	£10+	6.50	5.20	–	–
Special Interest Bond – Issue 2	£500+	5.35	4.28	–	–
	£10,000+	6.15	4.92	–	–
Classic II TESSA	£25+	5.55†	–	–	–
High Return II TESSA		6.25†	–	–	–
High Return II Feeder		6.25	5.00	–	–
Privilege follow-up TESSA# (Including Bonus)	£500+	5.80†	–	–	–
	£3,000+	6.30†	–	–	–
	£6,000+	6.55†	–	–	–
	£9,000+	6.80†	–	–	–
Preference follow-up TESSA~ (Including Bonus)	£3,001+	6.05†	–	–	–
	£9,000+	6.55†	–	–	–

ACCOUNTS NO LONGER AVAILABLE TO NEW INVESTORS

		Annual Interest		Monthly Interest	
Account	Balance	Gross % p.a.	Net Equiv. % p.a.	Gross % p.a.	Net Equiv. % p.a.
Privilege Bond	£5,000+	5.10	4.08	4.90	3.92
	£25,000+	5.60	4.48	5.40	4.32
	£50,000+	5.70	4.56	5.50	4.40
	£100,000+	5.80	4.64	5.60	4.48
Maturity Bond	£5,000+	5.10	4.08	4.90	3.92
	£25,000+	5.60	4.48	5.40	4.32
Maturity Bond – Issue 2	£5,000+	6.10	4.88	5.90	4.72
	£25,000+	6.35	5.08	6.15	4.92
Special Interest Bond	£500+	5.30	4.24	–	–
Matured TESSAs & Feeders		3.85	3.08	–	–
TESSA Feeder Account 1	–	6.35	5.08	–	–

TESSAs		Gross % p.a.	Bonus % p.a.	Tax-Exempt % p.a.
Optimum & Classic 1	–	5.35	1.00	6.35
High-Return 1	–	6.35	1.00	7.35

Interest rates are variable. Net equivalents assume the lower rate of income tax of 20%. Net rates are rounded and are for illustrative purposes only. Interest will be paid after deduction of income tax at the lower rate of 20% or, subject to the required certification, gross. *Minimum initial investment £25. §Minimum initial investment £500. @ Premium rate applies where 12 consecutive monthly payments are made in a 12 month period and the account remains open on the account's anniversary. #Only available to customers who have a maturing Bradford & Bingley TESSA. ~Only available to customers transferring a matured TESSA to Bradford & Bingley. †TESSA returns are tax-free (free of income tax) subject to all terms and conditions being met. In addition to accounts available through the Society's branches, the Society also offers postal accounts through its Direct Savings Unit. Further details can be obtained by telephoning 0345 248 248. For details of other accounts please contact your local branch or our Customer Helpline on 01274 555592.

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☐ The politics of power bids ☐ Mixed reception for Societies Bill ☐ Perverse view taken on retail sales

Final test for the domino theory

☐ IT is not often that stock market investors see the equivalent of a bundle of banknotes lying unwanted in the middle of the road, and no moral obligation to hand the lot into the local police station. But the current share price of London Electricity at 696½p is saying there is a significant chance of the bid, at 719.3p a share if you include the promised interim dividend, not going ahead.

There is only one reason why this might happen, and this is government interference. Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, has shown himself hugely unpredictable of late, but there seems no reason why he should allow through a controversial and contested American offer for Northern Electric and then block an agreed one for London.

Put this to the market doubters, and they mutter that a purchase of London could be "too politically sensitive", a view that has now become received wisdom. The argument seems to be that the capital's power lines are so sacred, keeping the lights burning for all those politicians, industrialists and opinion formers, that they cannot be risked in foreign hands. Does this mean that those living in more benighted parts of the British Isles can cheerfully be cast into the outer darkness? Presumably not. Assume Mr Lang is in a rational mood. The deal will go through at that price, even if no counter-bid looks likely. Northern's share price spent the day moving backwards, as the market gradually decided the level of the London offer meant its own terms, to be decided on by shareholders by tomorrow lunchtime, were less attractive. It is hard to make this stack up from the mathematics. The advisers to Entergy worked it thus. They looked at the terms on offer in the third running electricity bid, for East Midlands, substituted London's cash flow, and ended at £7 or so, adding the dividend to appear on the generous side. London wasn't arguing.

But East Midlands and London are very similar businesses. Northern is not, with a more stretched balance sheet and in a less attractive part of the country, in energy consumption terms. It flies in the face of logic to assess the three on the same basis. The 780p Northern was suggesting yesterday looks a fantasy. But the battle will be a near-run thing.

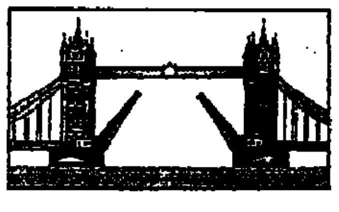
The London offer seems to seal the fate of the remaining two regional electricity distributors, Yorkshire and Southern. American power firms are keen to buy here both to escape a restrictive regulatory straight-jacket at home and to gain experience in our system of regulation, widely expected to be adopted there and in various growth markets for electricity around the world.

They will have to do so before the election and will not be put off by any windfall tax. Heaven knows what Mr Lang will do when the last domino falls. But look on the bright side. A fair few merchant bankers have had their Christmases ruined.

Mutual joy could be short-lived

☐ THOSE building societies keen on mutuality were effusive in their welcome for the new revised Building Societies Bill. They may live to regret their enthusiasm. One senior figure at a society headed for the stock market made the usual seasonal quip about "turkeys voting for Christmas", suggesting that the legislation left the determinedly mutual set more vulnerable to takeovers than before.

PENNINGTON



Continuing in the same ornithological vein, he said the Bill afforded societies no greater protection and left them like so many "sitting ducks", tasty meals for predators such as BAT. This last would indeed love a sizeable mutual such as the Nationwide, while there are plenty of other aggressors such as Lloyds TSB, already owner of the Cheltenham & Gloucester.

It is hard not to agree with him. Some might find it surprising that the societies did not lobby more aggressively for the strengthening of the two-year rule. This prevents those who have not been with a society for this length of time from receiving cash on the takeover of a society. They can, however, be rewarded in shares, which amounts to the same thing.

Ever the politician, Angela Knight, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, has declined to play hunt the carpet-bagger and reduce the numbers of investors eligible for a payout. Anxious to spread the "feel-good" factor far and wide, she would never have wanted to make it more difficult for as many as possible to pick a parcel of free shares. Some cynical commentators have even suggested this keenness to ensure as many households as possible receive such windfalls may have something to do with the election. Perish the thought.

The result is that predators will find it easier to persuade the members of a society to accept their offer. Had the Bill moved to exclude members of less than two years standing from windfalls, they could, in a fit of pique, have used their votes to rebuff the aggressor. Instead, they benefit with the rest.

The Bill may still not gain the necessary parliamentary time. But whether it becomes law or not, it has added extra spice to that favourite national sport, Mutual Lottery.

'Tis the season to be gloomy

☐ BRITAIN'S history of boom and bust is now so entrenched in the national psychology that some welcome perkiness on the high street is condemned as a wicked luxury. So yesterday's rise of 0.7 per cent in retail sales in November — a whopping 0.2 per cent more than City scribblers had been expecting — was greeted as a danger signal, warning of inflation and higher interest rates ahead. Scrooge would have been proud of us.

Let us examine the facts. Growth in retail sales has actually slowed down from the summer months. In November, four out of five of the non-food sales categories measured by official statisticians saw their annual growth rates fall. The main target of suspicion for the City's inflation Jeremiahs was the fact that clothing and footwear sales rose healthily despite the fact that prices are rising.

But put this in perspective. Clothing and footwear prices are only just higher than a year ago having showed year on year falls for months. Verdict Research yesterday specifically noted that clothing and footwear was a patchy sector, so much so that a number of retailers had introduced pre-Christmas sales to try and entice shoppers to spend.

If that doesn't lighten dark thoughts of inflation, so curmudgeonly in this festive season, perhaps it is worth noting that November's sales predated the latest round of mortgage increases. Together with the base rate rise the City so confidently expects early next year, perhaps we consumers should be allowed to enjoy a tiny spending spree before the sky falls in.

Building cracks

☐ RECOVERY for the building industry is now officially under way. Builders are like farmers — it is too hot or too cold, too wet or too dry. The first sign of any upturn is moaning about labour shortages, which send wages higher. A warning arrived on cue yesterday, from the chartered surveyors. Having spent six years laying people off because of falling workload, the builders are now short of staff again.

Gulf bid for Clyde lifts oil exploration shares

By Carl Mortished

OIL exploration stocks soared yesterday as Gulf Canada Resources launched a surprise bid for Clyde Petroleum.

The Canadian energy group, once part of Olympia & York, the Reichmann brothers' failed property empire, is offering £432 million in cash, or 105p per share, for the British North Sea exploration company, which recently acquired assets in Indonesia and Australia.

Clyde's share price jumped from 84p to 118p on news of the bid. Clyde's board later said that the offer was unacceptable and failed to take account of the group's record and prospects.

Other oil shares, including Enterprise, Hardy and Lasmo, joined the rally and analysts predicted that Gulf Canada's move would spark off other bids in the UK's independent oil exploration sector.

Colin Smith, analyst at BZW, explained that UK oil shares looked cheap to North American companies valuing the sector on cashflow multiples. "This could be the return of 1988 when prices in the North Sea lost touch with reality. Now is not the time to sell," he commented.

Gulf Canada's bid came without warning. James Bryan, chief executive officer, said he had no previous contact with Clyde and only attempted to call its chairman, Malcolm Gourlay, minutes before the bid terms were published by the Stock Exchange. Mr Bryan said: "I think this is the best way to do it. We put out a price which we think is fair. This is not hostile to shareholders. It may be hostile to people who want to keep their jobs but that is not the real issue."

Mr Bryan said that Gulf was interested in Clyde's production profile and obtaining a position in the North Sea. "We don't want to pay a premium for exploration and Clyde doesn't have one," he commented. He said that Gulf had lined up a C$1 billion bank facility to fund the purchase of Clyde.

Gulf claimed yesterday that its offer represented a premium of 69 per cent over Clyde's published net asset value per share and a 25 per cent premium over a "going concern" value of 84p attributed to Hoare Govett, Clyde's stockbrokers. Directors of Clyde, including Mr Gourlay, sold share options on Monday at a price of 81p.

With a market worth of $2.2 billion, Gulf Canada has expanded rapidly since it emerged from the ashes of Olympia & York in 1995 via a C$300 million management buy-in. Gulf has 521 million barrels of net proven reserves and its production averaged 141,000 barrels per day in the third quarter of this year.

Gulf has extensive interests in Indonesia, where Clyde recently acquired a stake in the Kakap field. Mr Bryan said that Gulf would move its international operations from Calgary to London. The company also plans to float off $2 billion of its Indonesian oil interests, on the Singapore stock exchange.

Rexam to sell off 20 businesses

REXAM, the paper and packaging company, confirmed yesterday that it is to put 20 businesses with a total turnover of £300 million on the market (Alasdair Murray writes).

The move follows a review that resulted in the company restructuring into seven divisions.

While looking for buyers, the company will place the businesses in a new division, Rexam Octagon.

Rolf Borjesson, chief executive, said the company would initially use proceeds from the sales to cut debt although it would seek to strengthen its divisions in the medium term. Rexam said that about 4,000 staff would be affected by the sale plan. It was confident that job losses would be minimised. Tempus, page 24

First Choice cuts payout despite profits recovery

By Marianne Curphey

FIRST Choice Holidays, the UK's third largest tour operator, is cutting the total dividend for 1996 in spite of a recovery in pre-tax profits to £10 million from £1.3 million.

The total dividend for the year to October is cut to 2.8p from 3.85p previously, with a final payment of 1.4p.

Peter Long, managing director, who replaced Francis Baron after a boardroom dispute, said that he hoped to achieve a future dividend cover of three times earnings. The group has declined to say when this might occur.

Earnings per share for the full year were 2.1p, compared with a 1.6p loss in 1995.

Baron: £600,000 payment

Mr Baron was paid £600,000 on the termination of his contract, it was disclosed yesterday. The group confirmed that David Gill, group finance director, was joining Manchester United and would be replaced by Lance Moir, formerly at Bass, in February.

The shares rose 4½p to 63½p yesterday amid hopes that the new management team would improve margins and reduce costs.

The dividend cut comes 13 months after First Choice launched a £44.1 million rights issue at 60p a share to enable it to buy Skibound, the leading operator in the UK group ski market.

Meanwhile, Thomson and Airtours, the two biggest tour operators, have been referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for alleged anti-competitive behaviour, a charge that First Choice has escaped.

Mr Long said that bookings for the UK summer season were up 42 per cent on last year and the group had sold 25 per cent of full-season capacity, compared with 17 per cent in 1995. Winter bookings are down 2 per cent.

Tempus, page 24

Channel 5 tunes in to £150m costs

By Eric Reguly

PEARSON, the publishing and entertainment company, confirmed yesterday that retuning costs of Channel 5, where it has a 24 per cent holding, have climbed to £150 million, more than double the original estimate. The cost, revealed in *The Times* last week, was contained in an end-of-year trading statement. The channel will makes its debut on March 30.

Pearson also confirmed that Mindscape, its US computer games business, is expected to lose £46 million but will break even late next year. Analysts think Marjorie Scardino, who replaces Frank Barlow as chief executive in January, will sell Mindscape. There is speculation that she may sell Pearson's half interest in Lazards, as well asMadame Tussauds.

Marjorie Scardino is thought likely to sell Mindscape when she joins Pearson as chief executive

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Salisburys collapse costly for Hartstone

By Sarah Cunningham

THE collapse of the Salisburys chain of handbag and luggage shops cost Hartstone Group, the hosiery and leather goods manufacturer, £1 million and helped to push it £2.1 million into the red in the first half of this year.

Hartstone was a supplier to Salisburys, which was the first company bought during the expansion of Facia, which was put into receivership in June.

In the six months to September 30, Hartstone also incurred £2.1 million one-off costs as it merged its two US operations, Etienne Aigner and Michael Stevens, and closed its group head office. A year ago, it made a £2.9 million first-half profit.

During the first two months of the second half, operating profits were significantly ahead of last year, the company said. The interim dividend has been maintained at 0.16p per share, payable on February 12.

London ammunition for Northern defence

By Christine Buckley, industrial correspondent

NORTHERN ELECTRIC has stepped up its fight against CE Electric's £782 million hostile bid, which closes tomorrow, by arguing that the bid for London Electricity increased the value of independent electricity companies.

CE Electric is offering 650p for each Northern share. But Northern says it would be worth 780p a share on the multiple used for London by Entergy. Northern has previously indicated a value of 745p a share but would have discussed a bid around 700p.

David Morris, Northern's chairman, said: "CE Electric is looking to short-change investors in Northern Electric with a price whose inadequacy is further highlighted by today's bid for London Electricity."

David Sokol, chairman and chief executive of CE Electric, said: "Entergy had the opportunity to acquire Northern Electric at a price of more than 650p per share but chose not to."

Mayflower's £38m paperchase

By Alasdair Murray

AN administrative mix-up has led to millions of pounds worth of share certificates being issued by Mayflower Holdings, the vehicle parts company, even though they cannot be traded until Monday.

A total of 32.8 million new shares at 126p have been issued by Mayflower in its £38 million rights issue to help fund the company's £165 million acquisition of SCSM Holdings, the US pressing business.

Mayflower said yesterday that investors acquiring shares in the company should not accept settlement through the new certificates until the rights issue shares are officially admitted to the Stock Exchange on December 23.

The certificates were distributed by the company's registrars, the Royal Bank of Scotland, on December 12. Neither the Royal Bank nor Mayflower were yesterday willing to accept responsibility for the mistake. Mayflower's existing shares closed unchanged at 142½p.

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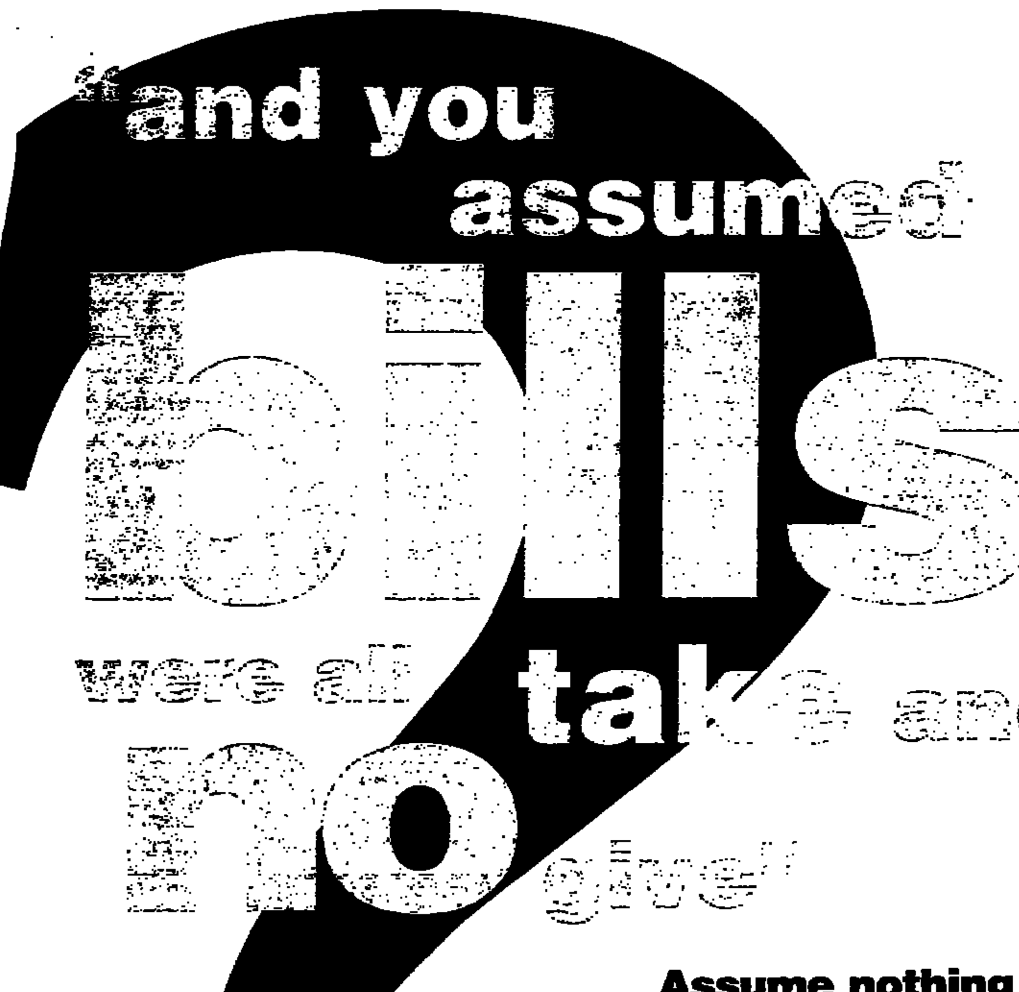

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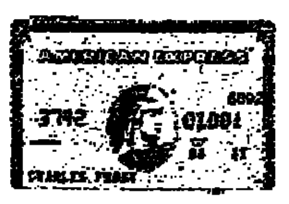

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STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Festive boost pushes the index back above 4,000

A BOUT of pre-Christmas window dressing and a sharp opening rise on Wall Street carried share prices in London *back above the 4,000 level to* close near their best of the day.

Bolstered by news of three sizeable takeovers and an opening gain for the Dow Jones industrial average of more than 40 points, the FT-SE 100 index soared 38.6 to close at 4,018.2. Turnover also reached its highest this week with 929 million shares changing hands. However, it appears that much of the turnover can be accounted for by intra trading between market-makers. Genuine retail demand was thin on the ground.

The agreed offer of 705p a share for **London Electricity** from Entergy, the US power group, came as no surprise. London responded with a rise of 13p at 696½p. The deal values London at £1.2 billion.

It follows close on the heels of last week's decision by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, to allow CE Electric's bid for **Northern Electric** to proceed. Northern closed 5½p cheaper at 630p. The Government also gave the go-ahead yesterday for Dominion Resources to pursue its £1.3 billion bid for **East Midlands**, 4p higher at 661½p.

But the market was caught on the hop by the agreed bid for **Clyde Petroleum** of 105p a share from Gulf Canada Resources. Clyde rejected the bid, which values it at £432 million, out of hand. Clyde responded with a rise of 34p to 118p as almost five million shares changed hands.

The bid for Clyde and the Government decision to offer remaining blocks of the North Sea for exploration also *prompted mark-ups for* **Cairn Energy**, 21¼p to 411½p, **Enterprise Oil**, 24p at 595½p, **Hardy Oil & Gas**, 23½p to 296p, **Monument Oil & Gas**, 4p to 65p, **Premier Oil**, 2½p to 32½p, and **Lasmo**, 7½p to 227p.

Michael Ashcroft's ADT surged 162½p to £13.75 as Western Resources offered to mop up the outstanding 73 per cent of the shares it does not own for $3.5 billion. In September ADT abandoned a $5 billion merger with Republic Industries because of market uncertainty.

General Accident finished 19p higher at 735½p on persistent suggestions that BAT Industries may be looking to bid after talks with Commercial Union about a possible merger broke down. **Commercial Union** came in for profit-taking after hitting a high this week on speculative buying. It finished 6½p cheaper at 686½p.

Some bearish comments from NatWest Securities left **Rentokil** 2p lighter at 437p. After meeting the company earlier this week the broker has also trimmed its profit forecast for the current year by 3 per cent to £317 million.

The year-end trading update from **Pearson** was deemed to be bullish and the price responded with a rise of *22p at 711½p. Trading during* the second half had been in line with expectations. The strength of sterling had not affected profits. Kleinwort Benson and Credit Lyonnais Laing, the brokers, both rate the shares a "buy".

British Airways rose 9½p to 601p after telling USAir it planned to dispose of its 24.6 per cent shareholding. Bob Ayling, chief executive, said BA regretted the action but would not get into bed with an unwilling partner. USAir decided on legal action after BA announced plans to link up with rival American Airlines.

Fairey rose 4½p to 586½p on further reflection of its £51.1 million bid for **Burnfield**, ½p firmer at 136p. The terms value Burnfield at 146.6p a share.

The capital restructuring at **Wessex Water** left the shares ½p easier at 365½p. As part of the deal Waste Management International will reduce its holding from 19.5 per cent to 3.3 per cent, with Wessex bidding 380p for 10 per cent of the shares not held by WMI. The entire cost of the buyback is estimated at £240 million. This follows the Government's decision to block Wessex's bid for **South West Water**, down 12½p at 596½p.

Hartstone firmed 1p to 12¼p after holding the dividend despite plunging into the red in the first six months. Losses were £2.1 million compared with a profit last time of almost £3 million. Increased losses at **Richards** left its shares 4p off at 35½p.

The decision not to pay a dividend and to ask shareholders for an extra £3.1 *million left* **Creighton's Naturally** nursing a fall of 12½p at 27½p. The placing and open offer at 23p will be used to secure the group's immediate future. The group plunged into the red last year with losses of £1.4 million.

A near trebling of profits lifted **Dawson Holdings** 225p to £21.75. Profit growth is expected to come from its electronic publishing arm.

BZW Endowment Fund established an opening premium after the issue had been oversubscribed. The investment trust was offered at 50p and, after reaching a high for the day of 52½p, closed at 52p.

Aspen Communications dropped 21p to 107½p after warning that a change in its accounting policy will reduce profits this year by £500,000.

A leap in profits last year and news of a strong rise in bookings for the summer season next year lifted **First Choice** 4½p to 63½p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** The bond market scored some early losses after reacting badly to *the latest fall in the unemployment numbers.* The short end of the market bore the brunt of the falls, while longer dated issues closed above their worst. This produced a further flattening of the yield curve.

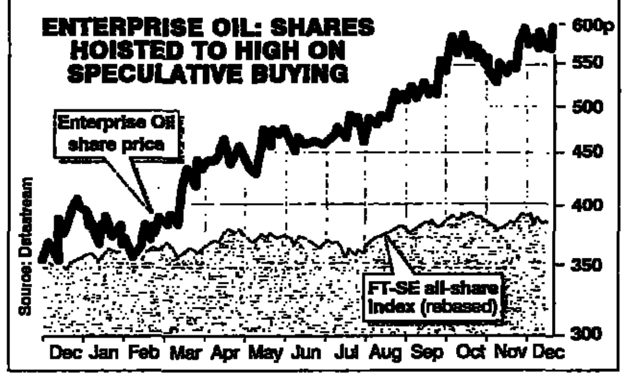
In futures the March series of the long gilt closed all-square at £108¹¹⁄₁₆ as a total of 46,000 contracts were completed. Treasury 8 per cent 2015 rose £⅛ to £101²⁹⁄₃₂, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was seven ticks down at £102⁷⁄₁₆.

☐ **NEW YORK:** High technology shares were back in favour on Wall Street and the sector's bounce helped prices generally. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 32.68 points higher at 6,341.01.

BA was 9½p higher after Bob Ayling charted a new course

Persisent buying has carried Folkes, the property and engineering group, close to its high. The ordinary firmed 1p to 66p yesterday, with the family-controlled non-voting also 1p firmer at 63½p. There is talk the group may be demerging its engineering side. Assets are estimated at 110p a share.

ENTERPRISE OIL: SHARES HOISTED TO HIGH ON SPECULATIVE BUYING



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	6314.01 (+32.68)
S&P Composite	731.11 (+5.07)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	20093.03 (-320.43)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	12766.02 (-49.35)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index	618.43 (+5.49)

Sydney:

AO	2323.7 (+7.9)

Frankfurt:

DAX	2820.75 (+5.62)

Singapore:

Straits	2195.78 (+19.26)

Brussels:

General	10357.68 (+72.28)

Paris:

CAC-40	2218.89 (+25.19)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	831.10 (+5.00)

London:

FT 30	2762.6 (+22.0)
FT 100	4018.2 (+38.6)
FTSE Mid 250	4380.5 (+16.5)
FTSE 350	1994.0 (+16.7)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	1855.83 (+8.28)
FT All-Share	1965.31 (+15.86)
FT Non Financials	2044.34 (+15.20)
FT Fixed Interest	116.10 (-0.17)
FT Govt Secs	93.81 (-0.25)
Bargains	33269
SEAQ Volume	930.7m
USM (Datastrm)	189.22 (-0.68)
US$	1.6725 (+0.0007)
German Mark	2.5999 (+0.0158)
Exchange Index	94.4 (+0.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.3376
£:SDR	1.1565
RPI	153.9 Nov (2.7%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	153.7 Nov (3.3%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Advanced Power	80½	...
Archer Dedicated	100	...
BZW Endowment Red	52	...
Cadcentre	237½	...
Car Group	193½	+ 11
Colt Telecom (275)	280½	+ 3
Dawn Til Dusk	121½	...
Exeter Inv	97½	...
Finsbury Intl Hedge	612½	- 4
Future Int Tele (115)	125	...
Grantchester Hldgs	130	+ ½
Henderson Tech C	332½	...
Henderson Tech Wrts	37	- ½
Henderson Tech	98	...
Highams Systems	118½	- 3
Kern River	50½	...
Kier Group	185	...
Netcall	49½	...
Oliver Ashworth	135½	...
On-Line	97½	...
Oxford Biomedica	60½	+ 5
Parkwood Holdings	80	...
Pilat Techn	52½	- 2
Provend (125)	137½	+ 6
SDX Business Sys	170½	...
Scot Highland Htls	137½	...
Second St David Inc	110½	...
Second St David Res	9½	...
Second St David Z Pf	184½	...
Semple Cochrane	231½	+ 1½
Yeoman Group	157½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Allied Colloids n/p	8	+ 5¼
Aukett n/p (5)	1½	...
Azlan n/p (620)	¼	...
Biocompatibles n/p	245	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Filtronic Com	309p (+39p)
Enterprise	595½p (+24p)
Man Utd	615p (+17½p)
Rank Group	442p (+12p)
Shield Diag	144½p (+9p)
FALLS:	
Therp Anti Inc	367½p (-10p)
Laporte	634½p (-14p)
Fine Arty Dev	230p (-9p)
Britannic	724½p (-9p)

Closing Prices Page 27

TEMPUS

Looking down the barrel

GULF Canada Resources is a company in a hurry. A management buy-in team runs the oil explorer that emerged from the mess of the Olympia & York real estate collapse. The company's bank shareholders are said to be patient, but its directors are chafing at the bit and Calgary is too small a town for them. The bright lights of London have drawn them here and little Clyde looks cheap.

Gulf will have to offer more to get what it wants. The price on the table is worth about $5 per proven barrel of oil, hardly expensive compared with the huge premium recently paid by Saga in its £1.2 billion bid for Santa Fe Exploration. Moreover, Gulf's price probably excludes the benefit of Clyde's recent acquisition from BHP, which adds another 20 million technical barrels that Clyde acquired for about 65 cents a barrel.

If Gulf is unlikely to take Clyde at this price — the bidder seems to know this having set up a loan facility for twice the value of yesterday's offer — the other certainty is that rivals are doing their sums. North Sea assets look cheap to North Americans: several US companies (Conoco, Arco and Chevron) took part in the Santa Fe auction and Gulf's bid represents less than five times the cashflow of Clyde in1996. Scandinavian oil companies are also desperate for foreign exposure and, if Saga is any guide, are prepared to pay high prices, claiming that their cost of capital is low.

In the longer term, investors may wonder how sensible these bids would look on oil prices of $17 or less. The futures market is not assuming that $23 oil has a big future but in the meantime holders of UK oil exploration shares can laugh all the way to the bank.

First Choice

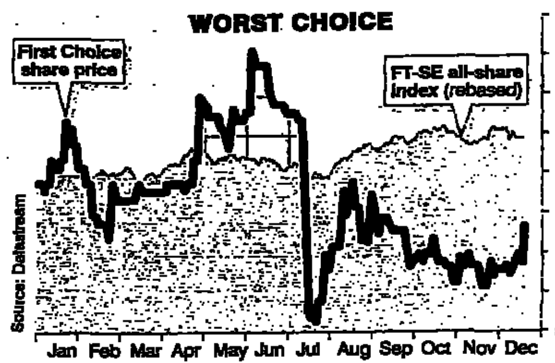
A DIVIDEND cut is not much of a thankyou to the institutions who, a year ago, backed First Choice's £44 million rights issue. However, the four operator has little money to splash around *— a £10 million profit on £1* billion worth of turnover indicates that First Choice is still the number three operator in the UK behind Airtours, which produced £89 million on revenues of £1.7 billion. Better cost control and a programme that includes cruising and Scandinavia helped Airtours.

First Choice has tried to balance the seasonal UK package holiday market, which relies heavily on June, July and August sales, by expanding into Canada. But even there it is competing head-on with Airtours.

Peter Long, First Choice's group managing director following the departure of Francis Baron, makes much of the inefficiencies of the old regime and the brave cost-cutting world of the new one. But First Choice still lacks dedicated high street distribution. In 1995, the worst *trading year for holiday* companies, profits came not from tour operating but from travel agencies. Even if the Monopolies and Mergers Commission forces Thomson and Airtours to sell some outlets, they would still retain distribution clout.

To pull in the big profits First Choice needs to diversify overseas, but until its UK business is in order it can only daydream about holidays abroad.

WORST CHOICE



Rexam

REXAM, the paper and packaging company, has enjoyed a good run. After a lacklustre performance over the past year — compounded by its demotion from the FT-SE 100 — it was inevitable that the share price would rebound. The company has made all the *right noises* and yesterday's confirmation that it intends to sell off 20 underperforming businesses was greeted warmly in the City.

But restructuring solves only part of the company's problems. The paper market is flat in Europe, prompting Rexam to make a cautious trading statement with its interims in September. A strengthening pound is also likely to hurt Rexam. Overseas earnings will be weaker after translation into sterling and a stronger pound will increase competition at home. European paper manufacturers are suffering from overcapacity and should welcome the competitive advantage of exporting to the UK. Rexam's new management deserves some credit for their efforts but there is little in the outlook to generate much excitement.

De Beers

NEWS that De Beers has issued an ultimatum to Russian *diamond* exporters is hardly the way to cheer up the jewellery trade just before Christmas. A little Christmas sparkler could be just the ticket for those seeking domestic peace over the holiday fortnight. Yet, diamonds are not so special if the Russians continue to dump them on the world market via shadowy merchants in Antwerp and Tel Aviv.

De Beers has spent ten months trying to secure signatures on a new trade agreement that would bring Russia back into the Central Selling Organisation fold. The CSO is a body that seeks to prevent diamond prices from falling and the only cartel that can claim to operate with consumers' blessing.

De Beers is fed up with the present arrangement because it reckons it is being forced to take rubbish stones while high-quality gems are leaking on to the market via third parties. About $1 billion of Russian diamonds were sold in this fashion last year, in large part from stockpiles built up in the Cold War. Most of these are low-quality industrial diamonds, depressing prices in that market.

De Beers had a good year with CSO sales totalling $4.8 billion and it reckons demand is strong enough to keep gem prices high, even if the Russians continue to procrastinate. But Russia is the second big producer to show lack of solidarity (Argyle of Australia has already opted out). When the next recession begins to hurt consumer demand, De Beers may find prices harder to control.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Dec	860-852	Mar	986-984
Mar	913-912	May	996-995
May	929-928	Jul	1005 BID
Jul	947-945	Sep	1015-1014
Sep	967-966		
Dec	976-975		Volume: 6912

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	1310-1306	Sep	1225-1220
Mar	1265-1260	Nov	1230-1215
May	1227-1223	Jan	1238-1208
Jul	1223-1218		Volume: 4819

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	302.9-02.0
Spot: 309.8		Dec	303.4-02.5
Mar	304.6-04.0	Mar	305.0-03.5
May	304.5-04.3	May	308.0-05.0
Aug	306.1-05.0		Volume: 958

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on December 17

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	90.34	133.94	105.28
(+/-)	-0.43	-0.24	-3.38
Eng/Wales:	90.51	133.99	103.87
(+/-)	-0.27	-0.91	-2.24
(%)	+19.0	-35.0	-23.0
Scotland:	88.46	133.73	108.72
(+/-)	-9.24	+2.49	-8.61
(%)	+45.0	-39.0	-4.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	23.80	-0.30
Brent 15 day (Feb)	23.40	-0.35
Brent 15 day (Mar)	22.70	-0.50
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	24.65	-0.35
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	24.05	-0.35

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	217 (n/c)	220 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	225 (-3)	226 (-3)
3.5 Fuel Oil	114 (-2)	116 (-2)
Naphtha	221 (n/c)	223 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Jan	219.25-19.50	Apr	196.00-96.50
Feb	213.75-14.00	May	190.75-91.00
Mar	205.50-05.75		Vol: 8773

BRENT (6.00pm)

Feb	23.35-23.40	May	n/a
Mar	22.71 BID	Jun	20.91-21.00
Apr	22.07 BID		Vol: 19313

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jan	95.50	Jan	93.75
Mar	97.60	Mar	95.25
May	99.60	May	96.50
Jul	100.85	Sep	93.00
Sep	93.40	Nov	95.00
Volume: 106		Volume: 15	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	51.3
Apr	61.0	61.3
May	unq	63.5
		Volume: 28

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Jan 81.25-81.75

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Jan 97	1450	1440	1450
Feb 97	1424	1422	1418
Apr 97	1490	1490	1490
Jul 97	1220	1210	1220
Vol: 163 lots			Open interest: 3877

Index 1518 +5

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	Cash: 2158.0-2160.0	3mth: 2101.0-2103.0	Vol: 2648975
Lead ($/tonne)	692.00-692.50	698.50-699.00	263750
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1029.5-1030.0	1053.0-1054.0	618425
Tin ($/tonne)	5750.0-5755.0	5805.0-5810.0	23480
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1499.0-1499.5	1531.5-1532.0	1831550
Nickel ($/tonne)	6465.0-6470.0	6565.0-6570.0	104976

LIFFE OPTIONS

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Jan	Apr	Jul
Alld Dom	420	18½	33	38	4½	12	20
(*430½)	460	4½	15	19	30	34½	42½
ASDA	120	6½	9	12	2	4½	7
(*124½)	130	2	4½	7½	7	9½	12
Boots	600	15½	32½	42	10	18	27½
(*604)	650	2	11½	19½	46½	49½	57½
Br Airways	600	18½	37	45½	13½	24	34
(*601)	650	4	16	24	49½	54	63½
BP	650	35	51½	59½	5½	19½	26
(*673)	700	9	27½	35	30	45½	51
Br Steel	160	7½	13½	16½	2	5½	10½
(*165)	180	0½	5	7½	15	17	22½
C & W	460	21	35½	46	5½	14½	23½
(*473)	500	4½	18	27½	29	35½	44½
CU	650	44	60	69	6½	29½	35
(*685½)	700	16	43½	53½	27	57½	61
ICI	750	23½	40½	50½	9½	31	37½
(*761½)	800	4	18½	28½	40½	62½	67½
Land Sec	700	41½	56	64	1	6	14½
(*737½)	750	10	23	32½	17½	25	37½
M & S	460	30½	42½	48½	1	6½	11½
(*487)	500	6½	19	25½	16½	23	29½
Nat West	650	39½	47	57½	5½	27	31½
(*675)	700	8	22	34½	30	56	59½
Safeway plc	390	15	28	34	7	14½	23
(*396½)	420	2½	14½	20	25½	31½	40
Sainsbury	360	13½	25	29½	4	9	17
(*368½)	390	1½	10½	15½	22	25½	34
Shell	950	37	61	68½	6½	26	36½
(*977)	1000	10	35½	42	30	51½	61
Smkl Bch	800	26	49	65	20	38	47
(*802)	850	9	28½	43½	51½	67	79½
Storehse	300	0	—	—	0	—	—
(*unq)	330	0	—	—	0	—	—
Trafalgar	50	0	—	—	0	—	—
(*unq)	60	0	—	—	0	—	—
Zeneca	1600	47	91½	123	30½	71½	93½
(*1605½)	1700	14½	48	80	98½	131	151
	Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Jan	Apr	Jul
BAT Ind	460	19	31½	39½	11	29	36
(*466½)	500	5	15	23½	36	54½	61
Vodafone	240	7½	17	22	7½	12	16½
(*240)	260	1½	8½	13½	21	24	28
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Grnd Met	420	27	34½	42	7½	13	18
(*444)	460	6	15½	22½	30½	35	39
Ladbroke	200	25	28	31	1	4½	6½
(*222)	220	10½	15½	19	6½	12½	14½
Utd Bisc	200	13	17½	20½	4½	10	12
(*205½)	220	4½	8½	12	16	23	24½

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Jan	Apr	Jul
BAA	460	22½	36	44	3	10	16½
(*478)	500	3	15½	23	23½	30	35½
Thames W	550	42½	57	65½	1	9½	21
(*588½)	600	9	26½	35½	17	27½	45½
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
BTR	260	15½	19½	24½	6½	14	15½
(*266)	280	6½	10	15½	17½	25½	27
Br Aero	1150	52½	74	95	26	42½	51½
(*1162½)	1200	29	50	69½	52½	68½	77
Br Telcm	390	13	21	27½	14½	19½	33
(*393½)	420	3½	9½	15½	37	39½	51
Cadbury	460	32	38	44	3½	12	17
(*483½)	500	10	16	24	21	33	38
Guinness	420	32	38	42½	5½	11	15
(*443½)	460	9	16	22	24	32	36
GEC	360	20½	29½	34½	7	10	18½
(*370½)	390	6	14½	19	23	26	34½
Hanson	119	7½	—	—	4	—	—
(*121½)	136	1½	—	—	15½	—	—
LASMO	220	14½	20½	27½	8	10½	12½
(*224½)	240	6½	12½	18½	19½	21	23½
LucasVarity	220	12	18	22½	8	12½	16½
(*222)	240	4½	10	14	20½	24	28
Pilkingtn	140	12½	17½	19½	2	4½	6½
(*149)	160	3½	8	10	12	14½	17
Prudential	460	30½	39	45	7½	18	22½
(*479)	500	11	18½	25½	27½	39½	44
Redland	360	18½	26½	28	10	19	22½
(*364½)	390	6½	13	15	28	38	41
R-Royce	240	13	18½	23	9½	14½	17½
(*241)	260	5	10	14½	22	26	29
Tesco	330	30	37	41	4	10	13
(*353)	360	11	19	24	16	23½	26½
Williams	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
unq	360	—	—	—	—	—	—

FTSE INDEX (*4015½)

	3900	3950	4000	4050	4100	4150
Calls						
Dec	119	70	26½	4	1	0½
Jan	149	110½	75½	47	25	12
Feb	181½	143	112	81½	57½	38½
Mar	193½	158	127	99½	75	55½
Jun	248½	—	185½	—	136	—
Puts						
Dec	1	3	10½	40½	89	139
Jan	22	35	52½	75	105	145½
Feb	44½	56½	75	96½	124	157½
Mar	67	81½	100	122½	149	180½
Jun	106½	—	142	—	192	—

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Dec	Apr	Jul	Dec	Apr	Jul
Abby Natl	700	34	57½	69	0	24	31½
(*734)	750	0	30½	41½	16	50½	57
Amstrad	140	6½	—	—	0	—	—
(*146½)	160	0	—	—	13½	—	—
Barclays	1000	14	52	68	0	39	46½
(*1014)	1050	0	27½	45	36	68½	75½
Natl Pwr	450	16½	36	—	0	13	—
(*466½)	500	0	14	22	33½	40½	54
	Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Jan	Apr	Jul
Glaxo W	900	40	71	85½	7	29	38½
(*937½)	950	18½	43	58½	26	52½	63½
HSBC	1200	63	93	115	10	44½	61½
(*1247)	1250	33	64½	88½	29½	68½	85½
Reuter	700	24	44	58½	10½	28½	36
(*710)	750	6½	21½	36	42	56½	63½
Royal & Sun	431	18½	32	—	6½	21	—
(*441)	469	3	—	—	29½	—	—
	Series	Dec	Feb	May	Dec	Feb	May
Blue Circ	360	2	16½	23	0	10	19½
(*362)	390	0	5	10½	28	29½	39
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Kingfshr	600	32½	43½	51½	13½	27½	33½
(*612½)	650	10½	20	29	42½	56½	61½
	Series	Dec	Mar	Jun	Dec	Mar	Jun
Unilever	1350	0½	48½	68½	0	30	52
(*1350½)	1400	0	25	40	49½	59	81
	Series	Dec	Mar	Jun	Dec	Mar	Jun
Br Gas	220	2½	14½	19½	0	10½	16
(*222½)	240	0	6½	11	17½	22½	27½
Dixons	500	36	50½	62	0	11½	16
(*536)	550	0	22	33	14	31½	37½
EMI Group	1300	21½	68	100	0	37½	51
(*1321½)	1350	0	43	75	28½	63½	75½
Tarmac	90	1	7	8½	0	4	5½
(*91)	100	0	4½	4½	9	10	12
Hillsdwn	180	12½	17½	20	0	2½	7
(*192½)	200	0	6	8½	7½	11½	18
Lonrho	120	0½	7½	10½	0	7	9
(*120½)	130	0	4	6½	9½	14	15
Sears	90	1	—	—	0	—	—
(*91)	100	0	—	—	9	—	—
Thorn EMI	1500	70½	—	—	0	—	—
(*1570½)	1600	0	—	—	29½	—	—
Tomkins	240	9½	17½	23½	0	7½	10
(*249½)	260	0	8½	14	10½	18	20½
Lloyds TSB	420	3½	20½	29½	0	20	35½
(*423½)	460	0	6	14½	36½	47½	51½
Scot Pwr	323	13½	20½	—	0	9½	—
(*336½)	353	0	7½	—	16½	27	—

December 18, 1996 Tot: 43347 Call: 25808 Put: 17539 FTSE Call: 6846 Put: 7039
*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FTSE 100 Previous open interest: 70280	Dec 96	3985.0	4020.0	3982.5	4016.0	17523
	Mar 97	3998.0	4032.0	3997.0	4028.5	10649
FTSE 250 Previous open interest: 5701	Dec 96	4373.0	4373.0	4370.0	4370.0	2170
	Mar 97	4426.0	4426.0	4424.0	4424.0	2170
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 470207	Dec 96	93.61	93.61	93.56	93.56	8914
	Mar 97	93.43	93.44	93.28	93.28	39736
	Jun 97	93.18	93.19	93.01	93.02	25584
Three Mth Euro Yen	Jun 97	99.37	99.37	99.37	99.37	100
	Sep 97				99.25	0
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 959401	Mar 97	96.89	96.91	96.87	96.88	21863
	Jun 97	96.84	96.86	96.82	96.82	14626
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 139027	Dec 96	109-06	109-17	109-06	109-14	529
	Mar 97	108-27	108-30	108-08	108-22	46226
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 97	125.46	125.58	125.40	125.55	876
	Jun 97	124.03	124.12	124.03	124.14	146
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 220392	Mar 97	99.92	100.20	99.87	100.02	75068
	Jun 97	99.20	99.20	99.20	99.13	65
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 26814	Mar 97	95.95	95.95	95.94	95.95	676
	Jun 97	95.96	95.97	95.96	95.97	251
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 73867	Mar 97	98.12	98.16	98.12	98.14	4429
	Jun 97	98.06	98.08	98.05	98.08	2536
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 88746	Mar 97	128.60	128.73	128.42	128.50	21765
	Jun 97	127.15	128.15	128.15	128.03	230

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6 Low 5½ Week fixed: 5¾
Treasury Bills (Dis):Buy: 2 mth 6 : 3 mth 6⅛ . Sell: 2 mth 5¹⁵⁄₁₆ ; 3 mth: 6 .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5²⁹⁄₃₂-5²⁷⁄₃₂	6⅛-6	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	
Sterling Money Rates:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛
Interbank:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛
Overnight: open 5¹⁵⁄₁₆, close 5¾ .					
Local Authority Deps:	6	n/a	6⅛	6¼	6⁷⁄₁₆
Sterling CDs:	6⅛-6	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛
Dollar CDs:	5.57	n/a	5.48	5.52	5.72
Building Society CDs:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅛-4⅞	5⅝-5½	5⅝-5⁹⁄₁₆	5⅝-5½	5-4
Deutschemark:	3⅛-3	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-2⅞
French Franc:	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-2⅞
Swiss Franc:	1½-1¼	2⅛-2⅛	2⅛-2	2⅛-1⅞	2-1
Yen:	⅝-⅜	⅝-½	⅝-½	⅝-½	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $369.30-369.60 Close: $368.80-369.30 High: $369.10-369.60
Low: $368.50-369.00 AM: $369.00 PM: $368.70

Krugerrand: $368.00-371.00 (£220.00-222.00)

Platinum: $370.00 (£221.05) Silver: $4.85 (£2.895) Palladium: $117.50 (£70.20)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Dec 18	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.9027-2.9226	2.9155-2.9182	⅛-⅛pr	2⅛-2⅛pr
Brussels	53.290-53.700	53.537-53.619	17-12pr	46-39pr
Copenhagen	9.8930-9.9590	9.9384-9.9485	2⅛-1⅞pr	6⅛-5⅛pr
Dublin	1.0030-1.0064	1.0045-1.0063	4-par	14-8pr
Frankfurt	2.5862-2.6043	2.5983-2.6012	⅛-⅛pr	2⅛-1⅞pr
Lisbon	260.77-262.88	262.13-262.46	⅛-⅛ds	⅛-⅛ds
Madrid	217.73-219.16	218.71-219.06	2-13ds	5-13ds
Milan	2550.9-2565.3	2555.6-2559.3	21-37ds	36-58ds
Montreal	2.2776-2.2896	2.2848-2.2870	0.64-0.59pr	1.26-1.18pr
New York	1.6696-1.6754	1.6720-1.6730	0.075-0.055pr	0.328-0.297pr
Oslo	10.783-10.849	10.824-10.834	⅛-⅛pr	⅛-⅛pr
Paris	8.7360-8.7980	8.7830-8.7891	2⅛-1⅞pr	6⅛-6⅛pr
Stockholm	11.381-11.483	11.448-11.468	⅛-⅛pr	⅛-⅛pr
Tokyo	189.36-190.46	189.98-190.22	1⅛-⅞pr	2⅛-2⅛pr
Vienna	18.196-18.328	18.285-18.306	⅛-⅛pr	1⅛-1⅛pr
Zurich	2.2132-2.2288	2.2258-2.2288	⅛-⅛pr	2⅛-2⅛pr

Source: Extel Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2626-1.2634
Austria	10.93-10.94
Belgium (Com)	32.01-32.02
Canada	1.3657-1.3662
Denmark	5.9415-5.9439
France	5.2495-5.2515
Germany	1.5533-1.5538
Hong Kong	7.7370-7.7380
Ireland	1.6640-1.6660
Italy	1529.20-1530.70
Japan	*113.58-113.68*
Malaysia	2.5233-2.5243
Netherlands	1.7430-1.7440
Norway	6.4730-6.4768
Portugal	156.73-156.83
Singapore	1.3983-1.3993
Spain	130.77-130.83
Sweden	6.8397-6.8472
Switzerland	1.3300-1.3310

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6718-1.6745
Australia dollar	2.1101-2.1121
Bahrain dinar	0.6240-0.6360
Brazil real*	1.7413-1.7458
China yuan	13.698-13.998
Cyprus pound	0.7770-0.7870
Finland markka	7.6275-7.7885
Greece drachma	405.75-412.75
Hong Kong dollar	12.9401-12.9480
India rupee	59.36-60.32
Indonesia rupiah	3899.0-3967.6
Kuwait dinar KD	*0.4960-0.5060*
Malaysia ringgit	4.2197-4.2239
New Zealand dollar	2.3667-2.3715
Pakistan rupee	66.45 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.0225-6.1465
Singapore dollar	2.3399-2.3423
S Africa rand (com)	7.8490-7.9510
U A E dirham	6.0750-6.1990

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	639	Lloyds TSB	12,100
ASDA Gp	4,400	LucasVarity	13,200
Abbey Ntl	2,200	Marks Spr	5,400
Allied Dom	13,800	NatWst Bk	6,100
Argos	731	Nat Grid	5,200
AB Foods	1,200	Nat Power	4,000
BAA	3,300	Next	1,700
BAT Inds	6,000	Orange	1,600
BOC	970	P & O	1,500
BP	8,900	Pearson	2,800
BSkyB	4,700	Pilkington	7,700
BTR	11,100	PowerGen	3,000
BT	12,100	Prudential	4,300
Bk of Scot	3,000	RMC	4,700
Barclays	4,600	RTZ	2,500
Bass	1,700	Railtrack	462
Blue Circle	5,100	Rank Group	3,700
Boots	2,800	Reckitt Col	1,300
BAe	1,200	Redland	3,500
BA	4,000	Reed Intl	2,300
Brit Gas	13,300	Rentokil Inl	6,100
Brit Steel	3,400	Reuters	1,800
Burmah Cstl	1,400	Rolls Royce	3,300
Burton	3,700	Royal & Sun	4,100
Cable Wire	3,400	Royal Bk Sct	2,600
Cadbury	1,900	Safeway	3,200
Carlton Cms	1,700	Sainsbury	4,700
Cm Union	4,400	Schroders	154
Courtaulds	2,800	Scot & New	805
Dixons	1,500	Scot Power	1,400
EMI	877	Svrn Trent	924
Enterpr Oil	2,400	Shell Trans	3,700
GKN	1,800	Siebe	1,400
GRE	2,500	SmKl Bch	7,500
GUS	1,600	Smith Nph	944
Gen Acc	807	Smiths Inds	1,500
Gen Elec	7,000	Std Chartd	2,300
Glaxo Well	6,900	TI Gp	412
Granada	2,300	Tate & Lyle	881
Grand Met	7,300	Tesco	4,500
Guinness	3,100	Thames W	737
HSBC	1,600	Tomkins	1,600
Hanson	36,000	Unilever	1,000
ICI	6,300	Utd Utilities	2,100
Imp Tob	4,700	Utd News	1,100
Kingfisher	2,600	Vodafone	6,500
LASMO	3,800	Whitbread	1,300
Ladbroke	13,000	Wlms Hld	463
Land Secs	2,000	Wolseley	2,600
Legal & Gn	3,400	Zeneca	3,500

WALL STREET

	Dec 18 midday	Dec 17 close
AMP Inc	37¾	37¾
AMR Corp	88¼	87¾
ASA	35⅝	35⅞
AT & T	39	39¾
Abbott Labs	51¼	50⅞
Advanced Micro	26½	25½
Aetna Life	75	74⅞
Ahmanson (HF)	32¼	32½
Air Prod & Chem	67½	66½
AirTouch Comm	26⅛	25⅞
Alberto-Culver B	47¼	48¼
Albertson's	34⅝	34⅛
Alcan Alumnm	32⅞	32⅝
Alco Standard	48⅝	49⅝
Allied Signal	68⅛	68½
Alum Co of Am	61¼	61¼
Amax Gold Inc	6⅞	6½
Amerada Hess	55⅝	56
Amer Brands	48	48⅝
Amer El Power	40	39⅞
Amer Express	53⅞	53
Amer Genl Corp	38⅝	38⅛
Amer Home Pr	60½	59⅞
Amer Intl	107⅝	107⅝
Amer Stores	39	39⅛
Amer Standard	37⅞	38⅛
Ameritech	55⅞	56⅛
Amoco	79⅞	77⅞
Anheuser-Busch	40⅝	40⅝
Apple Computer	23	22⅞
Archer Daniels	22	22
Armco	4¾	4¾
Armstrng Wrld	68⅞	69½
Asarco	24⅛	24⅛
Atl Richfield	133	132⅝
Auto Data Pro	42⅞	42
Avery Dennison	68⅞	68⅝
Avon Products	57⅞	58⅝
Baker Hughes	34⅞	35
Baltim Gas & El	26	26¾
Banc One	43⅞	43⅞
BankAmerica	97⅞	97
Bank of NY	33⅞	33⅝
Bankers Tr NY	85⅝	86½
Barnett Banks	39⅝	39⅞
Bausch & Lomb	35⅝	35⅞
Baxter Intl	41¼	40⅞
Becton Dickinsn	42⅞	42
Bell Atlantic	61½	61
Bell Industries	20⅝	20⅞
BellSouth	38⅞	38⅞
Black & Decker	29⅞	29⅝
Block (H&R)	29⅞	29
Boeing	101¼	101
Boise Cascade	33¼	33⅝
Bristol Myrs Sq	108⅝	107⅞
Browning Ferris	25⅞	25⅝
Brunswick	24½	24⅞
Burlington Nthn	84⅞	84⅞
CMS Energy Corp	32	32⅝
CNA Financial	105⅝	105⅝
CPC Intl	77⅞	76⅞
CSX	44⅞	45
Campbell Soup	80	80
Can Pacific	25	24⅞
Carolina Pwr	36⅝	36⅞
Caterpillar	74⅝	73⅞
Central & SW	25½	25½
Champion Intl	42⅝	41¼
Chase Manhat	87⅞	87⅞
Chevron Corp	63⅝	63⅞
Chrysler	33⅝	33¼
Chubb Corp	52⅞	52⅝
Cigna Corp	132⅞	132⅝
Citicorp	101	101¼
Clorox	97½	96½
Coastal Corp	47⅞	46½
Coca Cola	48⅞	48⅞
Coca Cola Ent	43⅝	43½
Colgate-Palmolive	91	91¼
Columbia Gas	62⅞	62½
ColumbiaHCA	39⅞	39⅞
Compaq Comp	76½	73⅞
Comp Ass Int	62	59⅞
Conagra	49⅝	48⅞
Conrail	98	98⅞
Cons Edison	28¼	28⅞
Cons Nat Gas	53⅞	53⅞
Cooper Inds	39⅞	38½
Corestates	51¼	51¼
Corning Inc	43⅝	43½
Crown Cork	51⅛	51⅛
Dana Corp	31½	30½
Dayton Hudson	39	38⅞
Deere	41⅛	40⅝
Delta Air Lines	74	74½
Deluxe Corp	30½	30
Digital Equip	38⅞	38
Dillard Dept St	29⅞	29⅝
Disney (Walt)	71½	70⅞
Dominion Res	38⅞	37⅞
Donnelley (RR)	30⅝	31⅛
Dover Corp	49⅞	48⅞
Dow Chemical	79	78⅞
Dow Jones	33⅞	33⅝
Dresser	31	31
Duke Power	45⅞	44⅞
Dun & Brdstreet	22⅞	22⅝
Du Pont	93⅝	91½
Eastman Chem	54½	54⅝

	Dec 18 midday	Dec 17 close
Eastman Kodak	79⅛	78⅞
Eaton Corp	67½	67
Edison Intl	19⅝	19⅞
Elect Data Sys	45	45
Emerson Elec	97	94½
Engelhard Corp	18⅝	18⅞
Enron Corp	43⅝	43⅞
Entergy	27⅛	27½
Ethyl Corp	9	9
Exxon	96½	96½
FMC Corp	72½	72½
FPL Group	43⅞	43½
Federal Express	41⅞	41⅝
Fed Nat Mtge	38	37⅝
First Bk Sys	68⅝	69
First Union Rlty	11¼	11¼
Fleet Finl Grp	50⅞	50⅝
Fluor Corp	63	63½
Ford Motor	32	32
GTE Corp	42⅝	41¼
Gannett	72	72
Gap Inc Del	31	30⅞
Gencorp	17⅝	17⅞
Gen Dynamics	69⅝	68⅞
Gen Electric	99⅝	97⅞
Gen Mills	64⅞	64⅞
Gen Motors	55⅞	55⅞
Gen Reinsurance	155⅝	155⅝
Gen Signal	41¼	41½
Genuine Parts	44½	44⅞
Georgia Pac	71½	71½
Gillette	69⅝	70⅞
Glaxo Welc ADR	31¼	31¼
Goodrich (BF)	39⅞	39⅝
Goodyear Tire	49⅞	50⅝
Grt Atl Pac Tea	31¼	31¼
Great Wstn Fin	28⅞	29⅝
Halliburton	58⅝	57½
Harcourt General	47⅞	49⅞
Heinz (HJ)	35⅞	35⅝
Hercules	44¼	44½
Hershey Foods	44	44½
Hewlett Packard	51¼	50⅞
Hilton Hotels	26½	26½
Home Depot	50⅞	49⅞
Homestake Mng	14⅝	14⅞
Honeywell	66⅞	65⅝
Household Intl	90⅞	90
Houston Inds	21¼	21½
Humana	19⅝	19½
ITT Corp	42½	41⅞
Illinois Tool	77½	77½
Illinova	26⅝	26½
INCO	31	31½
Ingersoll Rand	44⅛	43⅝
Inland Steel	19⅝	18⅞
Intel Corp	133½	130
IBM	155⅝	151½
Intl Flav & Fr	45⅝	46⅛
Intl Paper	39⅞	39⅞
James River Va	33½	33½
Jnsn & Jnsn	49⅞	48½
Kellogg	69⅞	68⅞
Kerr-McGee	69⅝	68⅞
Kimberly-Clark	96⅞	96⅞
Kmart	10⅝	10½
Knight-Ridder	38	38⅛
Lilly (Eli)	75½	73½
Limited Inc	18⅛	18½
Lincoln Nat	51⅝	51½
Litton	44½	44⅝
Liz Claiborne	39⅝	39⅞
Lockheed Martin	87⅞	87⅞
Louisiana Pac	21¼	21¼
MCI Comm	31¹¹⁄₁₆	31½
Marriott Intl	52⅞	52⅞
Marsh & McLnn	103⅝	102
Masco Corp	34½	34½
May Dept St	45⅞	45⅞
Maytag Corp	19⅝	19⅞
McDonalds	45½	45⅝
McDonnell D	62½	61½
McGraw Hill	45⅝	45⅞
Mead Corp	56½	55⅝
Medtronic	65½	61½
Mellon Bk	70½	70⅞
Merck Inc	78½	76⅞
Merrill Lynch	79⅝	78
Microsoft	81½	79⅝
Minnesota Mine	80⅞	80⅞
Mobil Corp	120⅞	120
Monsanto	37⅝	36⅞
Morgan (JP)	96⅝	97⅞
Motorola Inc	55⅞	53⅞
Natl Semi	25½	25½
Natl Service Ind	35⅞	35½
Navistar Int	9½	9⅞
NY Times A	36⅝	37
Newmont Mng	44⅞	44½
Niag Mohawk	9⅛	9⅝
Nike B	54⅞	52⅞
NL Industries	11⅛	11
Noram Energy	15⅞	15⅞
Nordstrom	39⅞	39⅞
Norfolk Sthrn	86½	85
Nthn State Pwr	45⅞	46
Norwest Corp	43⅝	43⅞
Nynex Corp	45⅞	45⅞
Occidental Pet	22	21½
Ohio Edison	22⅝	22

	Dec 18 midday	Dec 17 close
Oracle	42⅝	43⅛
Oryx Energy Co	22⅛	22
Overseas Ship	16½	16½
Owens Corning	39⅞	39⅝
PHH Corp	43½	42⅞
PPG Industries	55⅞	55½
PNC Bank	37½	38⅝
PP&L Res	22⅞	22⅞
Paccar Inc	69	69⅞
Pacificorp	20⅞	19⅞
Pac Enterprises	29	29⅞
Pac Gas & Elect	22⅞	22⅞
Pac Telesis	34⅞	34⅞
Pall Corp	26⅛	26⅝
Parker Hannifin	38⅝	38⅝
Peco Energy	24⅝	24⅝
Penney (JC)	50	50
Pennzoil	54⅞	54⅞
Pepsico	28⅞	28⅞
Pfizer	82⅞	80⅞
Pharm & Upjhn	38⅞	38⅝
Phelps Dodge	67⅞	67⅝
Philip Morris	108⅝	109⅞
Phillips Pet	43⅝	43½
Pitney Bowes	57	56½
Polaroid	40⅞	40⅞
PriceCostco	24⅝	24⅞
Proctor & Gmbl	105⅝	105⅝
Providian	51½	52½
Pub Serv E & G	27⅞	27⅝
Quaker Oats	37⅞	37⅝
Ralston Purina	74	73½
Raychem Corp	81	81½
Raytheon	48⅞	48
Reebok Intl	43⅝	43
Reynolds Metals	56½	56⅞
Rockwell Intl	60⅝	60⅝
Rohm & Haas	81	80⅞
Royal Dutch	167⅞	167
Rubbermaid	23⅝	23½
SBC Comms	49⅞	49⅞
Safeco Corp	39⅝	40⅞
St Paul's Cos	57⅝	58⅝
Salomon Inc	45	44⅝
Sara Lee Corp	36⅛	36⅛
Schering Plough	64½	64
Schlumberger	100⅝	99⅝
Seagram	38⅝	38⅝
Sears Roebuck	45	44⅞
Shell Trans	97⅞	97⅞
Sherwin Wllms	53⅞	53⅝
Skyline Corp	34½	23⅞
Snap-On-Tools	36	35⅞
Southern Co	21¼	21½
Sprint Corp	38⅝	38
Stanley Works	27⅞	27⅞
Sun Company	24	24
Sun Microsys	29⅝	29
Suntrust	48	48⅞
Supervalu	27⅞	27⅝
Sysco Corp	32⅛	32½
TRW Inc	47⅞	47⅞
TCC Inds	1½	1½
Tandem Comp	14⅞	14⅞
Tandy Corp	43½	42⅞
Temple Inland	52⅞	52⅞
Tenneco	44⅞	44⅞
Texaco	97⅞	97½
Texas Inst	64⅝	63⅞
Texas Utilities	40	40⅞
Textron	89⅝	88⅝
Time Warner	37⅞	38⅛
Times-Mirror A	52	51⅞
Timken	44⅛	44⅞
Torchmark	49⅞	49⅞
Toys R Us	31½	32⅛
Transamerica	79⅝	79⅝
Travelers	43⅝	42⅞
Tribune	77⅝	77½
Tyco Intl	52⅝	51⅞
UST Inc	33½	32⅝
UAL	61⅞	61
US Inds	31½	31½
US West Comm	31½	31¼
USX Marathon	24⅝	24
Unicom	26⅞	26½
Unilever NV	164⅝	165
Union Camp	48	48
Union Carbide	39⅞	39⅞
Union Pacific	57⅝	59⅞
Unisys Corp	7	6⅝
USAIR Group	22½	22⅞
USF&G Corp	20	19⅞
US Life	32	31½
United Tech	65	64⅝
Unocal Corp	39	39
VF Corp	65½	65
WMX Tech	33½	33
Wal-Mart Stores	23⅞	23⅝
Warner-Lambert	76⅞	74⅞
Wells Fargo	269⅝	270⅞
Westinghouse EL	18	18
Weyerhaeuser	46	45½
Whirlpool	45	44½
Whitman	22⅞	22⅞
Winn Dixie	31½	31½
Woolworth	21½	21⅞
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	56⅛	55⅞
Xerox	51⅝	51½
Yellow Corp	14⅞	14⅝

هكذا من الاصل

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Proof is in the pudding

PROOF that peace still plays an important part in the festive season ... On the day that the Building Societies Bill was published, a Mosimann's Christmas pudding in a beautiful gold carrier was delivered to the door of Angela Knight, Economic Secretary to the Treasury.

It was a Yuletide gift from Peter White, chief executive of the Alliance & Leicester, whose strong objections to "that clause" threatened to postpone the society's £2.5 billion conversion.

Satisfied that the parcel wasn't ticking, the Economic Secretary read the attached note. It was Father White wishing her a very Happy Christmas. Not one to miss a trick, he added just how sorry he was that White Knight couldn't make it to A&L's Christmas drinks last week.

Knight: peace meal

Hedging bets

WHILE BBC1 and ITV slog it out on Christmas Day in their traditional festive ratings battle, one telly bigwig will be able to watch the fray with total detachment. Peter Orton, the urbane managing director of HIT Entertainment, which was floated on AIM in July, will have the pleasure of seeing two of his top children's shows aired on Christmas Day. BBC1 will be showing *Brambly Hedge* in the prime slot of 4.15pm, while ITV will show *Percy the Park Keeper* at 10.15am. "Whichever channel wins the ratings battle, it is bound to be a HIT Christmas," Orton chuckles.

Cold caller

MICHAEL HARDERN, the arch building society carpetbagger, is braving the cold outside the Piccadilly branch of Bradford & Bingley. For the past week, the former butler to the Royal Family has been collecting signatures for his hard-fought campaign. Not to be outdone, B&B has installed an extra security guard on the door and recruited a regional officer to stand outside, explaining to passers-by that the campaigner is not the property of B&B.

SAFEWAYS has become the first supermarket in the UK to sell package holidays directly through a customer loyalty card scheme. The ABC Holiday Line will go live from the start of next year, offering discount holidays in exchange for ABC points.

Back on menu

A TURNAROUND at McDonnell Information Systems, the computer services group that floated last year. Hit by hard times, its Christmas shindig was erased from the corporate calendar last December. Yesterday, however, it was back in force, celebrating at Claridge's.

PETER LONG, the recently appointed managing director at First Choice, was candid with analysts yesterday on one subject at least. He let slip on his plans for the holiday season. Not long in the job after the departure of Francis Baron in November, he made it clear that, as the new boy, he would be too busy to even think about going away.

MORAG PRESTON

Don't make dividends the scapegoat for low growth

In 1964, Labour came to office after 13 years anxious to boost economic performance with the white heat of technical progress. Industry was falling behind foreigners, supposedly by paying too much in dividends and investing too little in change and expansion. The 1965 Budget brought in a corporation tax that made dividends cost more but cut tax on profits ploughed back in the business. Big companies felt they had to maintain their dividends; shareholders insisted. Result: the dividends left less profit to plough back. It was a classic example of a reform that achieves the opposite of what is intended.

In 1996, *plus ça change*. Labour, and others, reckon big business pays too much in dividends compared with foreign rivals but scrapes on investment. Conclusion: there must be something wrong with the corporation tax system. The Tories had changed it back to undo the dividend penalty. In the process, they favoured dividends to tax-exempt pension funds.

Labour was long wedded to making investment fully deductible. But this would have sent the main rate of corporation tax back up from 33 to 50 per cent or more. So image-conscious new Labour is rethinking.

The Commission on Public Policy and British Business, another of those independent groups set up by the Labour-oriented Institute for Public Policy Research, favours something more subtle. The "allowance for corporate equity", or ACE, would let companies count notional interest on retained earnings or new share capital against corporation tax, just like interest on loans. Retentions finance most capital spending so this should boost investment.

As a quid pro quo for relief of profits, imputed tax on dividends could no longer be counted against corporation tax. And that means pension funds and charities could no longer claim 20 per cent back from the Inland Revenue. They would be no worse off, the business commission claims, because their shares would gain from the profits ploughed into investment.

In an ideal world, taxes should be neutral between risk capital and loans. In practice, as ever, the transition is not easy. Labour's commission, doubtless inspired by folk memories of 1965, takes care to reconnoitre the elephant traps. The change would cost £4 billion in tax unless the rate of corporation tax was jacked up. Yet the low rate has helped to attract inward investment.

Axing pension funds' tax refunds might deter saving. The funds might press for higher dividends to compensate, as they did when Norman Lamont cut refunds from 25 to 20 per cent. Reform, the commission concludes, had best be phased in over ten years, hoping that higher growth from extra investment will fill the gaps. Then there are the actuaries. They tend to value pension funds on projected future dividends. If actuaries thought dividends would be held back, funds could well be valued lower, obliging companies to stump up more in contributions instead of investing.

That does not mean actuaries are right. The accounting valuation of pension funds is up for discussion and could be changed, but the signs are not good. Accountants can hardly grumble. Balance-sheet valuations of shareholders' funds bear little relation to each other, let alone market values. ACE would throw auditors into a tizzy, too.

No wonder the commission, including captains of industry, is sensibly lukewarm about its own proposal. Its report, due in the new year, will just call for reforms to remove bias in favour of dividends. But there is no reason to think that Britain's company tax system, or high dividends, unduly inhibit investment. Most top managers hate paying money to shareholders as much as they hate paying tax. As many tedious inquiries have concluded, however, Britain's low rate of investment is not due to lack of funds.

The GEC, whose new boss sat on the commission, has famously built up cash reserves for lack of enough investment opportunities that its board thought worth the risk. Many companies have geared up with loans to buy back their shares because they reckon it a better use of resources than expanding. That pays because equity capital "costs" more, an imbalance ACE would address. Equally, it shows that most big companies could borrow a lot more in tax-efficient loans to invest.

In the early 1990s, British Aerospace, also represented on the commission, ploughed nothing back and had to pay dearly for new equity. That was because BAe was not profitable, so shareholders were not keen to invest more in it. The group was undercapitalised because management foolishly bought cash-hungry businesses on the strength of defence prepayments.

Dividends are not really the cost of equity capital. Rather, retentions are extra money shareholders are prepared to invest in the business. Investors in profitable, fast-growing companies are usually happy with relatively modest rises in dividends and keen to plough back more for investment. Conversely, shareholders in stagnant companies with low returns prefer to take the cash and invest it elsewhere. Managers who control their company can choose to plough back more and take more risk, which is good *for the economy if they are right*. Others must persuade investors.

In the long run, growth of investment depends on the growth of markets and the risks that have to be taken. Many managers and investors are now oversensitive to risk because their fingers have been burnt. Two slumps punished companies committed to expansion. High interest rates turned the screw. How much quicker and safer to buy other companies and cut costs.

Stable growth and low long-term interest rates are the only reliable levers to raise the rate of investment. Those impatient for short-term action would surely find that tax sticks are more effective than carrots and curbing takeovers costs nothing at all.

Philip Bassett assesses the accuracy of the reported fall in unemployment

Undeniable present for the Tories

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, glancing at his Cabinet colleagues flanking him yesterday — Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, and Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade — quipped: "As you can see, we are out in force."

Out in force ministers certainly were yesterday as the Government announced a huge 95,800 fall in claimant unemployment — the biggest monthly drop for a quarter of a century, taking seasonally adjusted unemployment to well below the significant threshold of two million for the first time for six years.

Why? What happened in November to produce such a huge fall? Is it real — and will it last? To try to answer these key questions, it is necessary to look at a range of special factors which may have affected yesterday's totals, and especially at figures which rarely get examined — not the levels of unemployment, or even the month-by-month changes, but the flows on and off the claimant count.

In spite of the growth in long-term unemployment, joblessness is not, in the main, a static pool, but a constantly changing flow of people moving from their jobs — sometimes voluntarily, often not — into unemployment, and then often back into work.

Between October and November, 253,800 people joined the unemployment count. While this is lower than a year ago — 86,700 lower — as unemployment continues to fall, it is not hugely different from the inflow over the previous month: only 500 lower. So not that many fewer people actually *became* unemployed.

But there was a large increase in the number of exits from the count — the outflow. According to the Office for National Statistics, 336,300 people left the count between October and November. This is higher than a year ago — 22,500 higher, in fact, as the economy improves, jobs grow, and unemployment declines. But it is as much as 22,400 higher than the previous month. A key to this is likely to be the introduction of the jobseeker's allowance — the Government's new payment to replace unemployment benefit. Yesterday's figures were the first to reflect a full month of the JSA's operation.

Opponents of the JSA argued that it would be a deterrent, and it seems to have been so. New claims are taking longer to process — Labour said yesterday it had many reports of the JSA's introduction being so "chaotic" that it made the claimant count figures meaningless — and Whitehall officials said the JSA's main rule change of means testing for benefit payment after six months rather than 12 months is likely to cut the count by some 5,000, while the administrative problems could account for a further 20,000 of the overall fall. Mrs Shephard praised such moves, insisting that the taxpayer was now getting better value for money by such measures helping to remove people from the unemployment count who ought not to be there. One of the problems for the Government is that, as *The Times* showed yesterday, employment growth — now clearly in place — has not been at a sufficient pace to account for the tumbling unemployment rolls. Job vacancies are at an historically high level, with the number of unfilled vacancies in jobcentres — thought to be about a third of the total across the economy — now at 269,700.

Michael Heseltine, Gillian Shephard and Kenneth Clarke gathered to bang the Government's drum on job figures

Separate new employment figures from the ONS yesterday showed a 165,000 increase in the employer-based workforce in employment series, while the latest quarterly Labour Market Trends household-based survey, also released yesterday, confirmed a slow rise in employment. However the time gap between the monthly claimant count unemployment series and the three-monthly LFS figures offers little help to one month's jobless numbers — and ministers have just rejected making the LFS monthly, on grounds of cost.

But new work by the ONS trying to track claimants leaving the unemployment count is showing that more people are moving from the count back into work. The number was 30 per cent higher — about 40,000 more people — than in November last year, which Whitehall officials took as a clear sign of real jobs growth.

Pizza Hut's announcement of 5,000 new jobs was the icing on the cake yesterday. But the Government's opponents see the growth of such jobs — often part-time, temporary, with what they see as poor conditions and low security and prospects — as an equally good example of the insubstantiality of the modern UK jobs market.

But even after allowing for every special factor — and some of them put forward in Whitehall yesterday were, to put it kindly, highly speculative — yesterday's figures showed an undeniably substantial fall in the claimant count: one so undeniable that Labour's attempts to cast doubt on the statistics seemed misguided and desperate in the face of figures for which at heart there is little meaningful explanation other than the obvious one — that unemployment is down and going down.

Ministers may or may not be right to claim, as Mr Heseltine did yesterday, that the figures reflected Britain's improved competitiveness, or, as Mr Clarke did, its strong and sustainable economic growth, or as Mrs Shephard did, its flexible labour market, or, as Mr Lang did, its low burdens on business.

And while the current economic judgments, including the unemployment figures, new retail sales data yesterday and the glowing report on Britain's economy from the OECD earlier this week, brought ministers out in unprecedented numbers to beat the Government's drum, they were careful not to make a direct translation from that to people's electoral feelings. Ministers know that such figures are a real boost to the electoral "feel-good" factor as well as the economy. Privately, they might not have minded them a touch closer to the election. But a 95,800 fall in unemployment will do very nicely, thank you, as a Christmas present.

Lloyd's heavies seek a softer image

Jon Ashworth

on a legal firm wanting still more after a quantum-leap merger deal

For non-paying Lloyd's names, there is no greater enemy than the law firm of Dibb Lupton Alsop. The latest round of court action swings attention yet again on to the firm, and its partner, Philip Holden, who was seconded to Lloyd's two years ago to lead debt recoveries. Indignant refuseniks refer to "Holden and his heavies", ready to kick the door down, and take away everything, including the Christmas decorations. Not a cheery scenario.

The reality is a little different, of course. Holden has the weapons at his disposal — today's hearing is proof of that — but is seeking to soften his image. His door is open. Come and chat, and we can come to an agreement. Grumbling aside, a steady trickle of names has come forward to take up the offer.

Dibb will find the tough-guy image hard to dispel. Northern in origin, it launched its assault on London in 1994, poaching clients and staff, and taking panoramic offices in the City. Paul Rhodes, the abrasive managing partner, chain-smoked his way through packets of Marlboro Lights. Stuart Benson, head of business development, spurred the firm to new heights.

Two years on, Rhodes has found romance, resigned as managing partner and gone back to Leeds. He has quit smoking. Benson has found a new line in crisis management. Rhodes's successor, Nigel Knowles, arrived in January, and set about rewriting the business plan.

Nigel Knowles rewrote the business plan when he arrived

A key plank fell into place in October, when Dibb Lupton merged with Alsop Wilkinson, creating a practice with 1,600 staff and £100 million fee income. It is the UK's seventh largest law firm. The next set of dominoes toppled this week, when Cameron Markby Hewitt and McKenna & Co announced they intended to merge in May. Cameron McKenna will challenge Dibb Lupton in fee income, but modestly claims eighth place.

Dibb Lupton is trying to move away from stereotypes. Knowles, 40, says: "I don't think we've ever really been out to be the rottweilers of the legal profession. People have called us aggressive. My usual response to that is, what do you mean by the word aggressive? Do you mean that we seek to act for good clients, we seek to attract good people, and we seek to be profitable so that we can continue to grow the business? If that's aggressive, I don't agree."

Dibb Lupton Alsop has panoramic offices in London Wall

Taking the Lloyd's assignment was never going to help matters. Holden, who has seen his stint extended until next summer, knows this only too well, and even Knowles accepts that there have been difficulties. "When we got the Lloyd's work, the headlines appeared to be, those rottweilers, or debt collectors, from the North, have been instructed by Lloyd's. We started off getting billed as the debt collectors, and I think we've concluded by [taking] credit for having played a part in the rescue."

Dibb's fee income increased from £12 million to £56 million between 1989 and 1994, and virtually doubles again with the merger. But something more was needed to make that quantum leap. Knowles says: "I knew that we had traded for very many years on the strapline: 'We want to be a national commercial law firm'. That strapline was old, it was tired, and it wanted renewing." He set a target of becoming number one or two in each market in which the firm operates — except for London, where the aim was to be within the top five.

Knowles began to sound out firms with similar regional profiles, such as Hammond Suddards and Eversheds, and finally settled on Alsop Wilkinson, which had a fee income of about £32 million. "It became clear there was a compelling business case for the two firms to merge. They needed a presence in Yorkshire and the West Midlands, and wanted to be more corporately managed."

The merger strengthens Dibb Lupton's hand in the North of England, bringing fee income of £22 million in the North West alone. Offices in Liverpool, Manchester, Bradford, Leeds and Sheffield are turning over £60 million between them. In London, the firm effectively doubles in size, hitting critical mass in areas such as corporate recovery, banking, and commercial litigation.

Further mergers are possible in London and in Birmingham — perceived as a weak link in the chain. Attempts will be made to boost the client base through expensive "lateral hires" — just as Benson was recruited from Turner Kenneth Brown. Knowles is keen to develop the firm internationally, building on Alsop's offices in Hong Kong and New York.

Knowles's ultimate goal is incorporation — ring-fencing Dibb Lupton in the same way that KPMG has isolated its audit practice. For tax reasons, the move cannot happen until 1999. For now, the firm will concentrate on expanding into areas such as human resources, insurance claims handling, and litigation support.

Knowles says: "There are a number of areas where we probably need to go higher up the food chain and get to the client before other forms of consultancies get to the client, and that is something that we are going to be developing. The merger, and the £100 million of fee income, gives us more scope to do that."

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ACCOUNTANCY

Faith, hope and charitable VAT

John Brown calls for a change in the application of VAT to release charities from an immense burden

It is once again the season of goodwill to all men, the season for giving and a season of faith: faith in the numerous charities that minister to those in need that they will not fail in their tasks while others enjoy festivities.

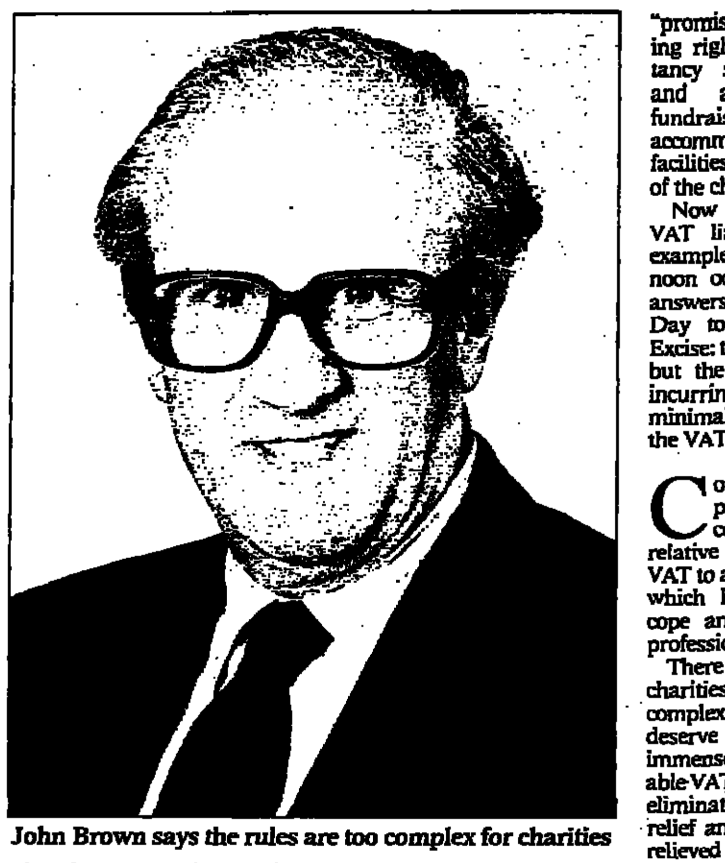
Although there may be a great outpouring of charitable works, the application of VAT to charities is somewhat less than charitable. For many charities, the incidence of irrecoverable VAT and the administration of the tax is a serious impediment. The monetary cost absorbs funds, often donated by the public without thought that an element will find its way to the Chancellor's coffers instead of being applied to the work of the charity, while the administration involves management resources that a charity can ill afford to provide.

In an earlier edition of the Customs and Excise leaflet on VAT and charities there was a warning that charities were bound by the same VAT requirements as any other business. It is a pity that this warning has been dropped, for in it was much truth. Perhaps it did not go far enough; charities are not only subject to all the rigours of VAT but with a degree of complexity unimaginable to business.

Charities are exposed to more of the intricacies of VAT than any other business sector. The VAT structure of a charity is like a tripod. One leg represents the supplies the charity makes, another the reliefs which may apply and the third the input tax it may recover. It must stand on all three legs represented by the entire range of VAT law — including the enforcement provisions from which there is no hiding place.

Supplies are a danger area; they can be made in almost infinite variety by charities. It is not only a matter of recognising them in the first place, but of determining their true VAT liability. The main and overwhelming supply by a charity in the caring sector may indeed be the exempt provision of care. If it did nothing else, it would have no exposure to VAT except to carry as a cost VAT on the major part of its bought-in costs. But life is not like that; charities do other things and make other supplies.

Projects may be instigated in a charity's far-flung operational units by local management committees whose knowledge of VAT is minimal. Payments to charities are frequently described as "grants" when they are not; they are the taxable consideration for the supply of services.


John Brown says the rules are too complex for charities

A single charity may make supplies for consideration which include: transport by ambulance, first aid training for other voluntary organisations and for commercial ones, sales of products, the letting of surplus ground on occasions, allowing a recycling business to place a skip on its land in return for a percentage of the value of waste paper dumped, the supply of accommodation, transport services in vehicles adapted for the handicapped, meals, the supply of staff, sales of goods on a 50-50 basis in charity shops, sale of donated goods and "promises", sporting and grazing rights over land, consultancy services, sponsorship and advertising services, fundraising in variety, holiday accommodation, conference facilities and the exploitation of the charity's logo.

Now identify the correct VAT liability of the above examples as a Christmas afternoon occupation. Send your answers by fax on Christmas Day to HM Customs and Excise: they will not be at work but the charities will be — incurring expenditure with minimal hope of recovering the VAT thereon.

Contemplate the complexity of the above and compare it with the relative simplicity of applying VAT to a commercial business which has the resources to cope and the funds to pay professional advisers.

There are many reliefs for charities in VAT law, but their complexity is legion. Charities deserve a better deal. The immense burden of irrecoverable VAT should be reduced or eliminated; charities provide relief and they too should be relieved of the ever-increasing burden of VAT cost and administration. Perhaps the season of goodwill is the time to start thinking along such lines. We shall then have faith, hope and unencumbered charities.

John Brown is immediate past president of the VAT Practitioners Group.

Year of teacakes and whoopee cushions

IT HAS been a year of extraordinary activity and achievements, though, as often happens with the accountancy profession, not all of it went as planned. It is odd to think that only 12 months ago people were still worrying about whether or not the English ICA would merge with CIMA, the management accounting body. The news that the merger had fallen through seems now to come from a different era. In future, rationalisation within the accountancy profession is only likely to come about through disasters and one or more bodies running for cover to escape disasters.

The other change we have now all taken on board is the idea that accountancy firms disclose financial information in the same way that companies have done since 1948. Only Price Waterhouse still stands alone, crossly refuting the idea. But even there, if you look at the latest edition of their in-house magazine, senior partner Ian Brindle is eager to trumpet achievements and growth. It cannot be long before even he produces some figures for the outside world. But that is likely only after they have put together their US and European firms. Then we can expect mammoth disclosures of huge advances. Accountancy firms know the business of sidestepping their competitors these days.

ROBERT BRUCE

They also know the advantages of keeping their options open as we approach a general election. The goal of becoming limited liability partnerships will remain. The confusion as some go for Jersey, smaller firms go for the Isle of Man, and others hold on to see what the Government can offer in terms of an onshore UK limited liability partnership will continue. But the firms are doing well. They can cope with a degree of uncertainty. And in the long term, the prospect of some form of proportionate liability legislation is pretty certain.

The other members of the profession who must regard a coming general election with reasonable ease are the accountancy bodies. Despite squabbles over details, they have managed this year to put together a credible regulation system. It is still a plan rather than a done deal but that doesn't matter. If a Queen's Speech next year does contain proposals for some type of Securities and Exchange Commission to oversee the City and business, then the blueprint the profession has sorted out can easily be bolted on to any new structure. Even on the theoretical front, accounting seems to have sorted itself out. The great onslaught, headed by Ernst & Young, against the Accounting Standards Board's published statement of principles ended in a state of reasonably happy compromise.

The head of the ASB, Sir David Tweedie, may have said that E&Y's pamphleteering had "all the vision of a mole and the eloquence of a whoopee cushion" but accountants do in the end find agreement and compromise more congenial than bitter battles. The great divide over the issue of current values is still there, but it will not surface again for a while.

The world of taxation and that of VAT in particular provided some bizarre glimpses of the state of tax legislation and its surrounding legal battles. "The Marks & Spencer teacake decision cost the Government over £360 million" was the sort of comment flying about. But it tended to detract from the main point. Talk of £6 billion shortfalls in taxtake made headlines. But they did so only because of the distorted politics behind taxation policy. For a generation, the brightest and best from the Inland Revenue or Customs and Excise have jumped ship and earned much more working as advisers for professional firms. This is not really gamekeepers becoming poachers. The important point is the shift in the balance of expertise and ability. All the current statements from the tax authorities echo what the professional firms have been saying for years; cut back on staff but run the place with a core of brilliant tax people.

The problem for any government is that within the terms of pay that sort of objective cannot be achieved within the Civil Service. Only accountancy and legal firms can achieve such goals. Tax authorities are condemned to lumbering along in the profession's wake.

But probably the most hopeful change during the year has been the attitude towards financial reporting. There may be enormous problems ahead in trying to bring together global rules. But the collective understanding that figures to be disclosed cannot remain so long under wraps before publication is creating a tide of reform.

The more that companies want to put out figures to the market as close to realtime as they can, the greater the pressure will be for more useful information to be produced faster and more accurately. Which is precisely what accountancy ought to be about.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Brute force of PW founder

THESE days Christmas Eve is the day when even accountants stop working and start the Christmas break. But it was not always thus. On Christmas Eve in 1849 Sammy Price opened up the partnership which we now know as Price Waterhouse.

And that is why next Tuesday sees the annual founder's lunch of the current partners at their Southwark Towers headquarters in London. Much jollity is expected. But we can only hope that they do not follow the example of their exalted founder.

Price liked nothing better during a luncheon than to wade in with both fists if an argument needed to be settled. During the Fenian riots of the 1880s "he turned up to the office in a very dishevelled and somewhat bloodstained condition", it was reported. So be on the safe side and make sure you avoid the precincts of London Bridge station next Tuesday evening.

Heavy words

SPARE a thought for the Christmas foreboding that has settled over members of the International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC). In its breakneck scamper to have its rules in order by early 1998 it has scheduled an extra meeting for January 6. This means that all IASC members are awaiting the thud of an agenda on their doorsteps between Christmas and the new year. This leaves them only a week, at best, to sort out their views. And IASC agendas currently tend to weigh in at around the 1,500-page mark.

"A copy of *War and Peace* would be shorter" is the moan of many a member. And probably more understandable too.

Festive touch

SIR David Tweedie has been bringing Christmas cheer to the City this week. He has been spotted around London wearing a tie decorated with numerous jolly faces of Father Christmas on it. It must be something to do with the forthcoming standard on goodwill.

Court of Appeal — Law Report December 19 1996 — Court of Appeal

Judge was not told of change

Vernon v Bosley

Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Thorpe

[Judgment December 13]

When a civil case was conducted on the basis of evidence in relation to the plaintiff's psychiatric condition and the prognosis at the time of the trial and it was discovered before judgment was delivered that the prognosis had changed significantly, the altered position should have been disclosed to the defendant and the trial judge.

The distinction between actively misleading and passively standing by and watching the court being misled did not apply if there was found to be an error in a material fact which was an essential part of the case. In such a case it was also the duty of a barrister to advise his client to make disclosure to the court, and if the client refused, to withdraw from the case.

The Court of Appeal so held by a majority, Lord Justice Evans dissenting, when reducing to £541,493.70, the damages plus interest payable to the plaintiff, Peter Frazer Vernon, by the defendant, Katherine Sarah Bosley, after the rehearing of an appeal in which judgment had originally been delivered n March (*The Times* April 4).

The defendant's appeal was from a decision of Mr Justice Sedley given on January 30, 1995 whereby he awarded the plaintiff £1,332,231.59 by way of damages and interest in respect of nervous shock or psychiatric injury sustained when he witnessed on August 13, 1982 unsuccessful attempts to rescue his two daughters from a motor car which had been driven into a river in South Wales by the defendant, who was employed by the plaintiff and his wife as a nanny.

Mr Dermod O'Brien, QC and Mr Daniel Pearce-Higgins for the defendant; Mr David Blunt, QC and Mr Jonathan Marks, QC, for the plaintiff; Miss Diana Cotton, QC, as amicus curiae.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH said that the defendant never disputed negligence but disputed that the plaintiff had suffered post traumatic stress disorder as opposed to a grief reaction, albeit an extreme one. She contended that the plaintiff's subsequent psychological problems were reactions to life's events, unconnected with the accident, such as the loss of his business, his inability to obtain employment and the break up of his marriage.

On March 29, 1996 their Lordships handed down draft judgments reducing the total award of damages to £643,425.56. Issues then arose as tq the correct calculation of past and future loss of earnings, which affected the calculation of interest.

No final order of the court had been drawn up when, on April 17, 1996, Mr O'Brien received from an anonymous sender through the post copies of a judgment of Judge McNaught given on January 6, 1995 in Gloucester County Court in proceedings between the plaintiff and his wife relating to their three children, and a copy of a judgment dismissing the plaintiff's appeal against Judge McNaught's judgment. Those judgments revealed that the evidence before those courts was that the plaintiff's psychiatric health had dramatically improved since September 1993 and that he was substantially, if not fully recovered.

That appeared to be the effect of the evidence of Dr G. L. Lloyd, a consultant psychiatrist, and Mr Dougal Mackay, a clinical psychologist, both of whom had given evidence before Mr Justice Sedley.

It appeared to the defendant's legal advisers that that evidence was materially different to the picture presented to Mr Justice Sedley and to the Court of Appeal, and that in particular it might affect the judge's findings as to the plaintiff's state of health at the time of the judgment and the prognosis for the future. That would affect the level of general damages and also elements of future earnings.

Accordingly the defendant applied for the appeal to be listed for rehearing, for discovery and inspection of the relevant reports and evidence and for leave to take copies of them. The defendant waived any objection and leave was granted.

Their Lordships ruled in October that further evidence should be admitted since it was relevant to the plaintiff's mental condition at the time of Mr Justice Sedley's judgment.

His Lordship said that it was only because the fresh evidence was likely to have a significant impact on the amount of the judge's and their Lordships' award of damages that it was justifiable to admit it.

It could not possibly be a proper exercise of the court's discretion to reopen the appeal simply to give expert witnesses the opportunity to explain their evidence and the change that had come about in it.

From that evidence their Lordships concluded that the plaintiff had made a substantial recovery which had been progressive since September 1993 save for temporary deteriorations. While that could not be said to be a complete recovery because he required low level medication, it did not prevent him from functioning normally.

In his Lordship's judgment, the existence of Dr Lloyd's and Mr Mackay's later reports, notes of evidence and Judge McNaught's judgment should have been disclosed to the defendant's advisers before Mr Justice Sedley gave judgment.

His Lordship rejected the submission that the reports of Mr Mackay and Dr Lloyd were subject to litigation privilege. They were reports obtained from experts in proceedings under the Children Act 1989 and such reports were not privileged. The ratio decidendi of the case of *In re L (a Minor) (Police investigation: Privilege)* ([1996] 2 WLR 395) was not confined to wardship and care proceedings.

It was the duty of every litigant not to mislead the court or his opponent. He might do so not only by giving evidence that he knew to be untrue, but by leading the court to believe that a certain state of affairs, which he once believed to be true, was now known no longer to be so. That duty continued until the judge had given judgment.

Moreover, the litigant did not discharge that duty simply by accepting his legal adviser's advice. He could rely on such advice as negativing mens rea, so that he would not be guilty of the crime of attempting to pervert the course of justice. But he was responsible for incorrect advice vis-à-vis the other party to the civil litigation. That was the general rule where legal advisers were acting within the scope of their actual or ostensible authority.

In the submissions made on behalf of the plaintiff, reliance was placed on the evidence of both Mr Mackay and Dr Lloyd as to the plaintiff's current condition and prognosis. Yet at the same time the submissions were made the plaintiff knew that it did not represent the true position and shortly afterwards his legal advisers knew the same.

Unless the altered position was communicated to the judge there was clearly a risk that he would give judgment on a basis that was no longer true and that was exactly what happened.

Mr Blunt sought to rely on the distinction between actively misleading and passively standing by and watching the court be misled.

His Lordship said that the classic example of the distinction was the case where the barrister knew his client had previous convictions but the court and prosecution did not. He was not under an obligation to disclose the convictions but he must not suggest that his client was a man of good character.

Similarly, neither the litigant nor his lawyers were bound to call in a civil case those witnesses who could speak as to a certain matter of fact which did not support their case.

But where the case had been conducted on the basis of certain material facts which were an essential part of the case, in this case the plaintiff's condition at the trial and the prognosis, which were discovered before judgment to be significantly different, the court was being misled, not by the defendant's failure to put before it material of which she could or should have been aware, but by the failure of the plaintiff and his advisers to correct an incorrect appreciation which the court would otherwise have.

In regard to the duty of counsel, his Lordship said that where there was a danger that the court would be misled, it was counsel's duty to advise his client that disclosure should be made.

If the client refused to accept that advice, then it was not as a rule for counsel to make the disclosure himself, but he could no longer continue to act.

If the plaintiff had not accepted the advice, then the non-appearance of counsel and solicitors before the judge would immediately have alerted the defendant's advisers, if not also the judge, that something was afoot. There was no doubt that Mr O'Brien would have smelt a rat.

In regard to the position in the Court of Appeal, Mr Blunt again sought to draw the distinction between not disclosing that which he asserted, wrongly in his Lordship's view, he had no duty to disclose and actively misleading the court. But in attempting to do so, counsel were walking a tightrope and in his Lordship's judgment did not succeed in staying on it.

His Lordship readily accepted that plaintiff's counsel did not deliberately intend to deceive the court and believed that the advice they gave the plaintiff was sound. But they made a serious error of judgment in failing to advise him on the need for disclosure.

By an over-technical construction of the rules and a failure to appreciate that their previous conduct of the case would result in the court reaching an unjust result unless disclosure was made, they found themselves in an impossible position. By the time the case came to the Court of Appeal they should have appreciated that they could no longer seek to uphold the judgment.

LORD JUSTICE EVANS, dissenting, said that the fact of the plaintiff's recovery had to be distinguished from the irresponsibility shown by two of his expert witnesses in subsequently expressing views in the family proceedings which were not easy to reconcile with their evidence before Mr Justice Sedley.

Plaintiffs' counsel did not, in his Lordship's judgment, either mislead the court or act improperly in any way. The consequences of holding that they did went far beyond the confines of the present case, particularly with regard to views expresed by expert witnesses after their evidence had been given.

His Lordship was also concerned that no steps had been taken to discover who had anonymously sent documents to defendant's counsel in breach of statutory confidence and apparently in contempt of court.

This case already deserved a place in the history books or in some legal museum as an example of how costs and the length of proceedings could get entirely out of hand.

Lord Justice Thorpe delivered a judgment agreeing with Lord Justice Stuart-Smith.

Solicitors: Howard Palser Grossman Hermer & Partners, Cardiff; Osborne Clarke, Bristol; Treasury Solicitor.

Six steps to jury inference

Regina v Argent

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Sachs and Mr Justice Toulson

[Judgment December 16]

Six formal conditions had to be met before a jury could draw such inferences as appeared proper, under section 34 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, from the failure of a defendant in answer to a constable's questions under caution to mention any fact relied on in his defence in court.

The Court of Appeal so stated when dismissing an appeal by Brian Argent, aged 31, against conviction of manslaughter, having been acquitted of the murder of Tony Sullivan by stabbing him seven times outside an east London nightclub.

The trial took place before Sir Lawrence Verney, Recorder of London, and a jury at the Central Criminal Court last May, and the appellant was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment. An appeal against sentence was dismissed.

Section 34 of the 1994 Act provides:

"(1) Where, in any proceedings against a person for an offence, evidence is given that the accused — (a) at any time before he was charged with the offence, on being questioned under caution by a constable trying to discover whether or by whom the offence had been committed, failed to mention any fact relied on in his defence in those proceedings … being a fact which in the circumstances existing at the time the accused could reasonably have been expected to mention when so questioned … subsection (2) below applies.

"(2) When this subsection applies … (d) the … jury in determining whether the accused is guilty of the offence charged, may draw such inferences from the failure as appear proper…"

Mr William Clegg, QC and Mr Thomas Derbyshire for the appellant; Mr Orlando Pownall, QC and Mr Jonathan Laidlaw for the Crown.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, said that section 34(2)(d) empowered the jury in defined circumstances to draw such inferences as appeared proper. That had to mean as appeared proper for a juror because the jury was the tribunal of fact and the drawing of appropriate inferences from fact was the task of the tribunal of fact.

The trial judge was, of course, responsible for the overall fairness of the trial and it was open to him to give the jury guidance on the approach to the evidence. There would certainly be circumstances in which a judge could warn a jury against drawing inferences.

The judge had always to bear in mind that the jury was the tribunal of fact and Parliament in its wisdom had seen fit to enact section 34.

The formal conditions to be met before the jury could draw such inferences were six.

1 There had to be proceedings against a person for an offence. That condition had necessarily to be satisfied before section 34 could bite.

2 The alleged failure had to occur before a defendant was charged.

3 The alleged failure had to occur during questioning under caution by a constable, or any other a person within section 34(4).

4 The questioning had to be directed to trying to discover whether or by whom the alleged offence had been committed.

In the present case, it was not in doubt that the victim had been killed by someone, and the questioner was trying to discover who inflicted the fatal wound and whether the killing was murder or manslaughter, it being fairly clear that the offence must have been one or the other unless the killer struck the fatal blow in the course of defending himself.

5 The alleged failure by the defendant had to be to mention any fact relied on in his defence in those proceedings. That raised two questions of fact: (a) Was there some fact which the defendant had relied on in his defence? (b) Did the defendant, when he was being questioned in accordance with section 34, fail to mention it? Being questions of fact they were for the jury as the tribunal of fact to resolve.

6 The fact the appellant failed to mention was a fact which, in the circumstances existing at the time, he could reasonably have been expected to mention when so questioned.

The relevant time was the time of questioning and account had to be taken of all the relevant circumstances existing at that time.

The court should not construe the expression "in the circumstances" restrictively; matters such as time of day, the defendant's age, experience, mental capacity, state of health, sobriety, tiredness, personality and legal advice were all part of the relevant circumstances. Those were only examples of the things which might be relevant.

When reference was made to the accused, attention was directed not to some hypothetical reasonable accused of ordinary fortitude but to the actual accused with such qualities, knowledge, apprehensions and advice as he was shown to have had at the time.

Like so many other questions in criminal trials the questions were for the jury to resolve in the exercise of their collective common sense, experience and understanding of human nature.

His Lordship, having reviewed the facts particular to the case and the grounds of appeal, said that the court did not regard the conviction as unsafe and the appeals against conviction and sentence were dismissed.

Solicitors: Attridge, Bermondsey; Crown Prosecution Service, Headquarters.

Judge's powers when reviewing taxation

Kawarindrasingh v White

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Brooke

[Judgment November 5]

A judge who was reviewing a taxation of a litigant in person's costs had the same powers and discretion as were vested in the taxing officer or district judge and he was not limited to inquiring whether the taxation was unreasonable.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an application by the plaintiff, Lt Col S. Kawarindrasingh, for leave to appeal against the refusal of Judge Morrell at Peterborough County Court on October 25, 1994 to interfere with a taxation of costs by a district judge.

The appeal was allowed and the matter was remitted to the county court for rehearing.

The plaintiff in person; the defendant did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE BROOKE said that the plaintiff had sought a review by the judge of a district judge's taxation of his costs.

The judge had considered that he was bound by the decision of a two-judge division of the Court of Appeal in *Hart v Aga Khan Foundation (UK)* ([1984] 1 WLR 994) to decide the review in accordance with the principles set out in *Associated Provincial Picture Houses Ltd v Wednesbury Corporation* ([1948] 1 KB 223).

He reviewed the order on that basis and decided that the district judge had not had regard to any irrelevant considerations or failed to take into account relevant considerations and it could not be said that his opinion was clearly wrong.

The judge was aware of the fact that in *Madurasinghe v Penguin Electronics* ([1993] 1 WLR 989) Lord Justice McCowan had suggested that the decision in *Hart*'s case might require reconsideration on some future occasion, but the judge had said that since the present case was a taxation of the costs of a litigant in person he was bound by *Hart* which also concerned a litigant in person.

At the heart of the application for leave to appeal was an issue of considerable public importance relating to the nature of a judge's jurisdiction when he or she heard an application for a review of taxation, made pursuant to Order 38, rule 24(4) of the County Court Rules (SI 1981 No 1687 (L20)), by a party who was dissatisfied with the district judge's decision on a reconsideration of a taxation.

Order 38, rule 24(6) provided that on such an application the judge could "exercise all such powers and discretion as are vested in the district judge in relation to the subject matter of the application".

In his Lordship's judgment, Order 38, rule 24(6) reproduced in a codified form the familiar principles which governed the jurisdiction of a judge on an interlocutory appeal from a master or district judge, which were clearly set out by Lord Atkin in *Evans v Bartlam* ([1937] AC 473, 478):

"where there is a discretionary jurisdiction given to the court or a judge the judge in chambers is in no way fettered by the previous exercise of the master's discretion … he is entitled to exercise [his discretion] as though the matter came before him for the first time."

The present application provided appropriate occasion for the court to resolve any doubts which might still linger on the nature of a judge's jurisdiction on an application to review a taxation of costs, whether made by a taxing officer or by a district judge, and whether made by a firm of solicitors or a litigant in person under Order 62, rule 35(4) of the Rules of the Supreme Court, or under Order 38, rule 24(6) of the County Court Rules whose words were identical, mutatis mutandis, so far as the provisions relating to the judge's powers and discretion were concerned.

The words, as Lord Justice McCowan had said in *Madurasinghe*, meant exactly what they said.

In his Lordship's judgment, the judge below had been wrong, as a matter of law, to hold that his jurisdiction was limited to an inquiry as to whether the district judge's order could be faulted on *Wednesbury* grounds, although in the light of the apparently conflicting decisions of the Court of Appeal it was hardly surprising that he decided to follow what was said in *Hart* which was another case concerned with a litigant in person, particularly as *The County Court Practice 1996* drew attention to that distinction.

The Court of Appeal did not have the expertise, in the absence of expert assistance, to determine that the plaintiff's application for a review was doomed to fail.

Accordingly, the court would grant leave to appeal, allow the appeal and remit the plaintiff's application for a review by the judge on the proper basis.

The Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Aldous agreed.

هكذا من الاصل

Equities close near best of day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
414	Allied Domecq†	439½	+ 5½	6.8	13.0
477	Bulmer (HP)	547½	+ 2½	3.1	16.1
67½	Burn Stewart	70	..	6.1	74.4
615	Glenmorangie 'A'	847½	..	1.8	23.1
411	Grand Met	444½	+ 5	4.8	14.0
425	Guinness	443½	+ 4½	4.3	13.8
315	Highland Distil	338	..	3.1	16.3
255½	Matthew Clark	258	- 2½	11.6	12.3
91½	Mryden Wt	107½	..	6.3	14.5
1375	SA Breweries†	1390¾	+ 16¾	2.3	

BANKS

Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2743¾	ABN-AMRO	3871½	- 3½	3.4	14.2
528	Abbey Natl	736½	+ 14½	3.9	13.6
315	Allied Irish	392½	..	4.6	11.3
285	Aus New Z	358	+ ¼	5.3	..
3843¾	Bank America	5800	+ 75		
227½	Bank Scotland	308½	+ 4½	3.8	11.0
683	Barclays	1015½	+ 17½	3.4	11.1
413	Bk of Ireland	517½	..	4.0	11.7
360	Cater Allen	381½	..	9.8	15.1
4031¼	Citicorp	6712½	+ 171½		
307½	Close Bros	316	..	4.0	12.7
1316¾	Commerzbk	1331¼	- 9½	3.5	
912½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	921¼	- 8½	0.5	...
2756¾	Deutsche Bk	2759¾	- 18¾	2.5	
580¾	Espirito Santo	778¾	- 6¼	4.2	11.3
935¼	Fuji Bank Y	895¼	- 14¾	0.5	...
260	Gerrard Natl	271		10.8	11.0
198	Hambros†	222½	+ 4	4.2	18.8
931	HSBC	1249½	+ 12½	3.8	11.6
950	HSBC Hk	1216½	+ 13½	3.9	11.5
385	Irish Perm	485½	...	2.5	13.3
143	King Shaxson†	182½	...	6.2	28.4
405	Leopold Jt	465	...	5.2	27.5
294½	Lloyds TSB	425½	+ 8½	3.5	18.0
556	Nat Aust Bk	672½	- 8	6.1	9.2
605¾	Nat West	676	+ 9	4.9	8.7
49½	Rea Brothers	68		2.1	23.6
464	Royal Bk Scott	534½	- 1½	4.3	11.8
1185	Schroders	1497½	+ 7½	1.5	17.0
890	Schroders NV	1292½	+ 10	1.7	14.7
98½	Singer & Friedl	127½		4.2	9.4
547	Stand Chart	700½	+ 12½	2.1	13.7
85½	Union	95½	..	3.9	10.4
£137¾	Wells Fargo	£164¾	..	1.9	
264	Westpac	334	- 2	4.8	10.8
288	Woolwich	307½	..	5.1	15.4

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
36	Alexia Sth HO	78			10.5
702	Bass†	895	+ ½	3.9	15.9
40	Bk for the Bdr	53	..	4.2	14.3
161	Bulmond Brwf	175½	..	4.8	15.8
92	City Centre Rest	136½	+ 3	2.1	25.7
463	Compass Gp	612½	+ ¼	1.8	24.0
190	Eldridge P 'A'	252½	- 1	2.8	15.9
413	Folk Sm 'A'	442½	..	2.7	14.6
546	Greenalls Gp	585½	+ ½	3.3	17.7
557½	Greene King	655	- 2½	3.1	16.0
179½	Grosvenor Inns	180	...	4.0	19.1
204	Groupe Chez Ger	222½	...	1.6	21.6
280½	Hardy Hanson	281	...	4.8	
2700	Holt J	2725	...	2.6	14.7
45	Inn Business	64	...	1.1	30.2
298	Mansfield†	331	...	2.4	15.2
260	Marston Thmpt	260	...	3.9	9.7
535	Morland†	576	...	2.8	14.9
116	My Kinda Town	187½	...	2.0	16.3
4½	Paramount	4½			
217	PizzaExpress	518½	...	0.7	39.9
245	Ransdens (H)	390	...	1.6	41.8
138½	Regent Inns	305	...	0.9	35.5

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
685	425	Brammer	639	+ 1½	2.8	18.0
29½	18	Bridgend Grp	20	..	1.2	...
113	76	Brit Fittings	101½	+ 11	4.6	11.6
319	245	Caffyns	307½	..	4.7	12.8
194½	152½	Car Group	189½	+ 11	2.5	18.9
160	105	Cowndale	110	- 2½	3.9	7.2
187½	72½	Charles Sidney	75	..	8.3	10.6
79	54½	Cook (DC)	57½	...	5.0	6.7
175	94½	Dag Motors	99½	..	10.0	4.8
163	129½	Davanza B	133½	..	2.5	11.4
434	328	Diploma†	361½	+ 1	5.8	13.5
467½	328	Electrocomponents†	454	+ ¼	1.9	27.5
314	129½	Ernalls Elec	187½	..	3.8	15.6
134½	65	Essadel†	107½	..	7.9	10.9
105	76	European Mtr	78½	..	8.4	8.0
375	217	Evans Halshaw	220	..	9.4	8.6
67	39½	Fitz Indust	47½	..	9.7	8.4
398	249	Finelist Grp	313	..	2.8	18.0
33½	16½	Gardiner	32	- ¼	3.4	12.8
81	33½	Glenchewton	63	+ ¼	2.3	16.6
97½	76½	Gowrings	82½	..	4.2	14.0
191	72	Hamlet†	75	- 2	10.9	7.0
292	218	Harris (Philip)†	248	..	4.4	15.1
285½	208½	Headlam	286½	..	2.7	22.1
200	132	Holders Tech	151	..	5.0	14.2
232½	153	ISA Intl	231½	+ 11½	1.4	21.1
316	231	Jacksons†	250	- 5	4.3	21.4
78	33	Jacks (Wm)	50½	..	5.0	17.4
280	160	Kwik-Fit	278	..	3.0	17.6
390	299	Lex Service	315½	- ¼	6.7	10.1
155	105	Lookers	106	..	9.4	8.2
17	10½	Malaya Grp	11½	..	7.3	12.1
9½	5½	Middlesex	6	- ¼	1.6	9.2
47	31	Motostar	39	- ¼	0.8	..
565	440	Nodaimi	471	- 2½	2.1	13.1
349	230	Northumbria	296	+ 2½	0.8	8.8
162	108	PCT	125	..	7.7	11.7
331	281½	Parlco	322½	+ 1	2.8	16.4
342½	272	Pendragon	342½	..	3.4	18.6
211	145	Perry Gp	190	..	5.5	9.7
745	602	Premier Farnell	686½	..	2.1	28.7
190	135	Quicks Group	149½	..	5.5	11.0
315	185	REA	285	..	1.8	34.2
3	2	Reece	2½			
54	20	Rotork	25½	+ ½	7.4	8.8
4½	2	Ross Gp	3			
56	39	SEP Ind	39	- ¼	5.8	..
105	65	Sallies	67½	..	1.9	21.9
417½	246	Time Products†	379½	+ 10	3.6	15.5
301½	123	UMECO	255	..	2.4	18.2
332½	263½	Vardy (Reg)	282½	..	2.8	13.7
500	325	WF Elect	497½	..	3.2	21.2
59	25½	Wishart	32	..	3.3	9.5
146½	75½	Wyko	140	..	2.0	19.8
146	104	Young (H)†	122½	..	4.8	..

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1½	0½	Anglo Utd	0¾			3.0
388	288	Antofagasta	345		1.9	13.4
387	263	Ascot Hldgs	285	- 5½	2.3	
1050	785	Boston HM	802	- 15½	5.0	48.8
340	229	BTR	255	+ 8	4.5	19.8
586	411	BAT	465½	- 2	8.6	9.1
224	182½	Berisford Intl	139½	+ 1	4.1	..
147½	108	Bibby (J)†	130	+ 4½	7.2	7.7
65	50½	Brierley Inv	51	- 2	8.6	8.1
972	729	Charter	729	- 5	4.8	10.4
326	205	Cookson	223½	+ 8	4.7	11.9
222½	141	Cosalt	212½	..	5.9	..
283	204	DCC†	260½	..	3.3	18.3
141½	109½	Grampian Hldg	114½	..	6.6	11.6
139½	75½	Hanson†	83	..	18.1	4.7
172½	118½	Harrison Crsfld	126½	- ½	6.9	12.4
482	379½	Hutch Whamp	439½	+ 4½	1.6	25.4
429	352	Imperial Tobacco	385	+ 5½	6.5	7.7
583½	344½	Jardine Math	384½	- 1	3.9	..
217½	116½	Lonrho	129½	..	4.9	14.4
197	164	McLeod Russell	166½	..	5.0	
478	380	Powell Duffryn†	391	- 3	6.8	15.4
146	97	Reaney	113½	..	9.1	9.8

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
299	200	Quadramatic	240½		4.8	
18	4	Quadrant Grp	11½		2.7	
65	62	Radiant Metal	65			
69	50½	Ransomes	51½		3.1	11.2
88	62½	Record	55½	...	8.1	10.7
324	231	Renold†	242½	+ 2	3.7	10.9
36	8½	Richards Group#	8½		18.4	
89	71½	Richardson Westgarth	82½		5.5	9.4
270	187	Rolls-Royce†	241	+ 2½	2.6	23.9
277½	171	Rotork	255½		3.1	21.2
209	169	Rubicon	186	- 1	4.8	13.7
1584¾	1187½	SKF 'B'	1259¾	- 9¾	3.5	8.1
125	92½	Senior Eng	108½		4.1	14.9
349½	156	Solid-Hee	325	+ 1½	1.4	26.8
1014¾	750	Skelta	1008	+ 16¾	1.7	28.8
84	32½	Sanco Eng	33½		2.4	12.5
301	150	Six Hundred	230		2.6	4.5
839½	622	Smiths Indt	749½	- 4	2.7	19.1
786½	585	Spirax-Sarco	804	- 8½	2.5	19.0
324	287	Sterling Ind	309½	...	3.7	14.8
593½	456	TI	543		3.1	19.4
124	92	Tinsley (E)	113½		6.6	11.5
121	72	TransTect	107½	- 2	2.7	18.2
212½	140	Triplex Lloyd†	205		4.3	11.6
162½	137	Unicorn Intl	150½		4.6	13.4
82½	47½	Utd Inds	48½		5.8	7.9
307	241	Vickers	249½		3.3	15.2
14	8½	Wilkes Grp	8½			
770	638	Vinci	704½		1.9	13.1
802	708	Vosper Thorny†	867½	- 3	3.5	14.5
436	288	Wagon Ind	289½		8.6	8.8
279½	212	Weir	254½	+ ¼	3.7	15.9
275	228	Wellington Hldg	247½		3.9	15.4
59	27	Wellman	29½	+ ¼	8.8	8.1
58½	26	Wescol	39½	- 1½	2.5	18.9
575	383	Westland	565	- 5	2.8	22.7
122	42½	Widney	64½	+ 1	7.1	..

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
151	108	Adwest	141	..	6.9	30.8
295	180	Airflow Streamt	188	..	5.3	8.7
753½	473	Avon Rubber	682	+ 1	3.6	
101	57½	BSG†	67½	..	4.2	15.2
353	242½	Bostrom	242½	- 3½	3.5	10.0
28	15	Brooklands#	16½	..	7.6	30.7
293	175	CHF	293	..	1.9	
690	431	Flgd Tech	677	+ 2	1.3	19.9
1186	778	GKN	1045	- ¼	3.8	18.1
3800	2850	General Mtr	3287½	..	2.9	
659	407	Hadys	536½	..	3.0	13.7
1832½	1312¾	Honda Motor	1797	- 2½	0.4	
502	365	Laird	397	- 2	3.8	12.0
475	425	Lucas	475	..	0.3	...
262	172	LucasVarity	222½	+ 3½	0.8	..
145½	91	Mayflower	143	+ ¼	1.8	40.6
193	145	Sydene	165½	..	4.5	12.0
199½	120½	T & N	172½	- 2½	4.3	12.1
433	252½	Trinity Hldgs	281½	..	3.8	14.2

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
116½	78½	HTR Jap Smaller	78¾	- 1½	...	..
17½	8	HGS Est	17			
159	114	HLS UK Smllr	154	+ 1	2.4	35.2
150	128	Inv Capt	146	..	4.6	24.4
157	97½	Intl Biotech	97½	..	..	...
70	21½	Intl Wts	27½	..	..	
115	84	Intl C	95			60.0
114	98½	INVESCO Asia	98½	- ¼	0.8	...
65	43	INVESCO Eng	49	...	21.4	5.0
182½	135	INVESCO Eng Intl	174½		0.8	98.9
92	60½	INVESCO Jap Dis	60½	- ¾	...	...

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
200½	138½	Euro Leisure	172½			4.5
19	16½	Farringford	16¼			
86	49½	First Choice	63½	+ 4½	5.6	
400	336½	First Leisure	339		2.9	19.7
190	142	Friendly Hotels†	150	- 5½	4.8	19.2
903½	619	Granada	866½	+ 2½	1.9	23.3
57	25	Hi-Tec Sports	40½			16.2
253½	148	Hornby†	236	..	3.0	54.0
553	415½	Hozelock	443½	..	3.2	
193	155	Jarvis Hotels†	160		0.8	
301½	201	Jurys Hotel	273½	+ 9½	3.0	..

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High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
137	74½	INVESCO Korea	75½		..	
63½	43½	INVESCO Tokyo	44½	- ¾		
95½	65	J Fry 2nd Ut	82	+ 3	10.9	10.2
84½	66½	J Fry Euro U	81		6.8	13.0
260	168½	JF Fledg Jap	169	- 2		
90½	74	Jupiter Ex Inc	87½		11.1	8.6
7	3½	Jupiter Ex Inc Wt	3½			...
83	70	Jupiter Grd Capt	78½	+ ½	12.4	10.0
31½	24½	Jupiter Grd Pfd	30½	+ ¼		..
126	108	Jupiter Intl Gn	121½		3.8	
309½	252	Klnwt Cnt	282		2.4	51.8
130	98½	Klnwt E Mkt	100½			
162½	133	Klnwt Engl	160	+ 1		

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
31½	19	Aunich	24½	+ 1½	3.6	
223½	143	Ladbroke	222½	+ 4	3.4	29.4
330½	212½	London Clubs	308½	- 3½	3.2	23.2
615	188	Man Utd	615	+ 17½	1.1	41.0
95½	77½	Mandarin Orntl	85½	- ¼	3.9	19.9
359	278	Millennium & Cop	346		0.3	26.5
175	89	Northern	174½	+ 6½	3.0	17.8
146	114	Prism Leisure	119½		6.0	7.0
36	28	Queensborough	28½			
32	11½	Queens Moat	15½			
547	396	Rank Grp	442	+ 12	4.5	14.7
47	31	Ryan Hotels	40½	..	5.3	8.2
1525	930	Savoy Hotel 'A'	1465		1.2	57.2

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
74½	65½	M&G Inc Zero Div	71½			
28	18½	M&G Rec Cap	20½	+ ¼		
52	44½	M&G Rec Geared	45½	..	15.0	8.3
27	23	M&G Rec Inc	25½		26.7	4.7
150½	133	M&G Rec Packet	144½		4.7	26.4
101½	89½	M&G Rec Zero Div	100	+ ¼		
152	114	M Conte Euro	143		0.6	
112	83½	M Conte Japan	89½	- ½		
167	143	M Conte Pac	152½	- 1	8.7	
246	222	Majedie†	236½		3.5	31.2
290	235	Merchants	272½	+ 1	6.0	22.5
108½	91	Mercury Euro Pvt	107	..	2.2	41.2
33	22½	Mercury Eur Wt	29½			
110	69½	Mercury World	87½		1.4	66.1
31	8½	Mercury Wld Wts	9½	+ ¼	...	...
629½	567	Monks Inv Tst	605	+ ½	2.0	45.1

MEDIA

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
660	455	Abbott Mead	652½		1.8	33.0
305	149	Adscene	152½		7.0	10.2
66	37½	Aegis Gp	61½	- ¼	0.4	19.7
141	81½	Atlantic Telecom	137½	- 3		
48½	14	BBB Design©	47	+ ½		
425	273	Barbour Index	300		4.0	34.9
9	5½	Bidstate	6			
370	325	Black (A&C)	330		4.7	13.0
503	238	Blenheim Gpt	501½	..	2.5	16.6
325	248	Border TV	313		2.5	18.2
433	355	Bodall	429	+ 1½	4.2	13.9
697	376	BSkyB	524	+ 5½	1.3	36.1
186	113½	CIA Gp	115		2.4	13.3
794	593	Capital Radio†	559½	- 2	2.8	18.8
534	378½	Carlton Comms	501½	- 2	2.8	15.6
558	363	Chrysalis	502½		0.7	

OTHER FINANCIAL

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
67½	34½	Berry Bch Nbl	65½		3.4	10.7
345	252	Brdec Inv	274			
225	151	Brown Dolphin	189½		5.0	11.7
825	636	Caledonia†	785		2.9	24.0
2250	1700	Camellia	2250		1.8	11.7
276	213	Cattles	252½		3.6	17.0
187½	152½	Charles Taylor	180		2.9	57.2
42½	18	Chartwl	39			47.7
152½	90	EFT Group	148½		1.9	16.3
725	558	EFM	567½		5.6	24.8
118	53½	Exco	54	..	17.4	9.1
1280	1075	Henderson Adj	1127½		5.0	16.6
276½	229½	InvescoA	252	+ 7	2.4	14.5
97½	79½	Investment Co	94½		2.6	24.5
288	228	Ivory Sime	280	- 1	3.7	20.9
233½	183½	Jardine Strat	223½		3.9	

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
172½	98	Johnson Fry	137		3.6	6.1
395	328	Legal Ins	387½	+	4.9	22.3
299½	216	Lon Forfaiting	278½	+ 1	6.7	12.1
261	226½	London Pacific	202½	- ½	8.3	10.0
117	87½	Lon Scot Bk	95½		3.4	18.2
186	173	Man ED & F	173½		7.4	9.3
1354	1040½	M & G	1110	- 5	4.1	16.5
1267½	841	MAM†	1223½	- 6	4.3	20.5
117½	90½	Nat Home Loan	114			
2575	1830	Perpetual	2250	- 2½	2.2	16.6
500	395	Provident	475	- ½	2.9	17.9
336	306	Rathbone Bs	336	- ½	4.2	12.7
60½	37½	Rutland Tst	53½		2.9	15.9
112	42	SEC Group	104½		5.5	
457	290	S & U	410		5.0	12.3
57	33	Tawny Las	40			
8	3½	Tea Hldgs	3¼			

PHARMACEUTICALS

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
350	163½	Brit Biotech	209½	- ½		
715	340	Cantab Pharms	530			
693	441	Celltech	465			
589	224	Chiroscience	317½	+ 2½		
447	149½	Cortecs	174½	-		
1034½	767	Glaxo Well	927½	+ 8	4.3	13.4
475	194	ML Laboratories	199½	+ ½		52.7
286	208	Medeva	255	- 2	2.1	18.4
349	175½	Peptide Thera	193½			
809	524	Scotia	655	- 7½		
266	179	Shire Pharms	230½			30.6
96	69	SkyePharma	77	- 1½		
834½	626½	SmithKline†	830½	+ 7½	2.4	23.1
532	365	Therp Ant Inc	367½	- 10		
633	457½	Vanguard	527½			
1768½	1216	Zeneca	1606½	+ 34	2.5	25.0

PRINTING & PAPER

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
155½	127½	AG Holdings†	140		5.4	11.6
735	547	API	656		3.2	
140	56	Acc Hols	58½			
212	149	Arjo Wiggins	157½	- 1	6.6	
295	105	Aspen Comms	105	- 22½	7.4	8.3
18	12½	Bath Press	18	- ½	5.2	5.8
422½	339	Bemrose	415½	- 6	4.5	13.8
212½	138	Bugdon	212½		1.4	18.0
2725	2057½	Bowater Inc	2152½	+ 37½		
348½	209½	Bowmore Intl	310½	+ 2½	1.1	26.0
770	645	Br Polythene	714	- 1	3.0	15.3
38	16	Br Thornton	23			
168	132	Brodon Corp	151		2.6	12.9
245½	197	Bunzl†	221	- ¼	3.4	13.7
207½	170½	Capital Inds	202½		3.3	14.1
378½	276	Cropper (James)	329½		1.6	12.0
755	526½	De La Rue†	536	+ 6½	5.6	13.7
95	73	Delyn Group	75		3.4	14.9
197½	131	Dolphin Pack	195½		2.7	15.3
117½	75½	Fairway Group	75½		6.5	12.6
267	190	Ferguson Intl	234	- 1	7.1	12.4
275	127½	Filofax	125½	- 2	3.4	9.6
177	112	Inveresk	135		5.4	12.1
310	185½	Jones (Peter)	206½		4.2	12.3
574	398	Low & Bonar	407½	- 1	4.2	17.3
118½	66	MY Holdings†	111		2.7	16.9
263	166	Macfarlane	176		2.6	14.8
134	93½	Nobo Gp	93½		8.5	6.9
404	282	Photobition	384½	- 2½	2.2	19.6
201	156½	Plysu	161	- 2½	5.9	15.5
41	26	Porter Chadburn	29		1.1	10.2
410	323½	REXAM	341	- 4½	5.2	16.4
512½	425½	St Ives Gp	471		2.1	17.2
1047½	507½	Sappi	505½	- 2½	3.5	
8	2½	Sera	3			
148	82	Sellaer	102½		2.4	
344	254	Smith David	311½	- 7½	3.1	16.4

SUPPORT SERVICES

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1550	865	ADT	1375	+ 16½		
405½	214½	AEA Tech†	376	- 1½	2.5	17.4

[illegible]

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
101	100	Treas 7% 1997	100	+	6.97	6.42
107	100	Treas 13¼% 1997	100	+	13.18	5.93
107	100	Exch 10½% 1997	100	+	10.43	6.88
101	101	Treas 8¾% 1997	101	+	8.62	6.46
114	102	Exch 15% 1997	106	-	14.03	6.50
100	100	Exch 9¾% 1998	102	-	9.45	6.64
100	100	Treas 7¼% 1998	100	-	7.20	6.69
110	109	Treas 14% 1998-01	109	-	12.76	6.79
122	114	Treas 15½% 1998	114	-	13.57	6.86
114	109	Exch 12% 1998	109	-	11.00	6.94
108	97	Treas 9½% 1999	104	-	9.06	6.99
116	110	Exch 12¼% 1999	110	-	11.05	6.88
112	107	Treas 10½% 1999	107	-	9.75	7.02
99	95	Treas 6% 1999	97	-	6.15	7.01
112	107	Conv 10¼% 1999	108	-	9.48	7.14
108	103	Conv 9% 2000	105	-	8.56	7.21
105	101	Treas 8% 2000	102	-	7.81	7.28
124	117	Treas 13% 2000	117	-	11.06	7.31
114	100	Treas 10% 2001	109	-	9.15	7.37
101	96	Treas 7% 2001	98	-	7.11	7.37

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
114	105	Treas 9¾% 2002	110	-	8.85	7.51
105	99	Treas 8% 2003	102	-	7.80	7.50
117	110	Treas 10% 2003	112	-	8.87	7.55
121	114	Treas 11½% 2001-04	114	-	10.02	7.40
85	78	Fund 3½% 1999-04	83	-	4.21	6.35
114	107	Conv 9½% 2004	111	-	8.55	7.60
97	91	Treas 6¾% 2004	95		7.09	7.58
109	101	Treas 8½% 2005	105	+	8.05	7.64
114	108	Conv 9½% 2005	111	-	8.55	7.66
131	122	Treas 12½% 2003-05	126	-	9.92	7.60
101	94	Treas 7½% 2006	98	+	7.58	7.65
103	96	Treas 7¾% 2006	100	+	7.72	7.66
101	97	Treas 8% 2002-06	101	..	7.85	7.60

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
125	118	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	120	-	9.79	7.58
108	101	Treas 8½% 2007	105	+	8.04	7.70
112	103	Treas 9% 2008	109	+	8.27	7.74
104	96	Treas 8% 2009	101	-	7.86	7.78

LONGS (over 15 years)

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
89	81	Treas 6¼% 2010	86	+	7.20	7.82
113	104	Conv 9% 2011	110	+	8.17	7.82
114	104	Treas 9% 2012	110	-	8.14	7.82
84	75	Treas 5½% 2008-12	81	-	6.78	7.56
105	95	Treas 8% 2013	101	+	7.88	7.83
103	93	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	99	+	7.79	7.82
106	95	Treas 8% 2015	101	+	7.85	7.80
113	102	Treas 8¾% 2017	108	+	8.03	7.86
144	130	Exch 12% 2013-17	142		8.45	...
106	95	Tr 8% 2021	102	-	7.83	7.80

UNDATED

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
46	41	War Ln 3½%	44	+	7.85	
32	29	Treas 2½%	31		7.99	
51	46	Consols 4%	50	-	7.93	..

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	10%	5%
114	111	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	113		0.04	2.15
185	176	Treas IL 2½% 2001	184	-	2.68	3.31
182	171	Treas IL 2½% 2003	180	-	2.92	3.38
119	112	Treas IL 4⅝% 2004	117	-	3.01	3.42
192	179	Treas IL 2% 2006	189	-	3.18	3.48
179	161	Treas IL 2½% 2009	175	-	3.28	3.54
179	166	Treas IL 2½% 2011	175	-	3.34	3.57
148	136	Treas IL 2½% 2013	144	-	3.41	3.61
157	145	Treas IL 2½% 2016	153	-	3.46	3.65
151	138	Treas IL 2½% 2020	147	-	3.52	3.68
126	115	Treas IL 2½% 2024	121	-	3.54	3.68
124	112	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	119	-	3.54	3.69

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
213	95	Cafe Inns	170		1.8	13.1
171½	58	Country Gdns	147½	- 5	1.2	15.2
2175	860	Dawson Hdgs	2175	+ 225	2.3	
47	14	Freepages	46½			
117	92	Megatomedia	95½		.	53.6
475	22½	Memory Corp	47½	- 6		
180	85½	Old English Pub	163	- 7	1.1	51.2
560	292½	Pet City	435			
500	158½	Prism Rail	467	+ 2		
615	520	Southern News	615	+ 6½	3.6	17.5
79½	50	Southern Vectis	67½		3.5	15.6
375	122	Surrey Fr Ins	371½	- 9½	0.8	
79½	44	Troxadero	50			

Source: FT Information

C USM. # Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue. ▼ Ex all. § Ex capital distribution. * Figures or report awaited. .. No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
01895 259 783				
Groland Amer	226.10	239.281	+ 1.00	.
Groland Equity	284.60	302.60	+ 0.10	1.82
Groland Euro	259.50	274.60	- 1.40	0.59
Groland Expr Bal	132.30	137.10	...	2.57
Groland Corp Bd	76.12	78.84	+ 0.11	6.61
Groland Japan	146.10	154.60†	- 1.70	.
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	679.10	722.50	+ 3.50	2.48
General Inc	568.90	603.10	+ 3.00	2.48
UK Growth Acc	467.30	497.30	+ 2.90	2.64
UK Growth Inc	302.40	321.80	+ 1.80	2.64
Higher Inc Acc	830.00	883.00	+ 5.10	4.07
Higher Inc Inc	442.10	470.40	+ 2.70	4.07
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	212.30	224.10	- 1.00	5.48
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	92.94	98.17	- 0.38	5.48
Nth America	355.00	377.70	- 1.80	
Europe	353.20	375.80	- 0.90	0.44
Brit Excell	92.59	98.50†	+ 0.62	2.76
Brit Fndmtls Acc	118.20	125.80	+ 0.60	4.62
Brit Fndmtls Inc	79.06	84.11	+ 0.33	4.62
Global Opps	98.73	104.50†	- 0.50	
Balanced Acc	63.38	67.44	- 0.10	2.60
Balanced Inc	59.19	62.97	- 0.09	2.60
Japan Acc	40.32	42.90	- 0.48	...
Pac Basin Acc	384.98	409.50	- 3.20	0.92
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	130.80	138.80†	- 0.70	7.03
High Inc Equity	184.80	197.60	+ 0.30	4.36
Worldwide Bond	268.90	285.20†	- 1.30	4.69
American Growth	378.40	404.30	+ 1.20	0.31
Asian Pacific	307.10	326.40	- 0.80	0.08
Assets & Earnings	306.10	326.30†	+ 1.10	2.89
Euro Capital Acc	185.10	198.00	- 0.10	0.80
Extra Inc	42.82	45.55†	+ 0.05	7.07
General	280.60	298.50	+ 1.30	2.94
Global Opps	67.43	71.73	- 0.07	0.56
Japan	99.98	106.90	- 1.30	.
Managed Inc	47.78	50.83†	- 0.04	4.72
Mastertrust	165.20	176.70	- 0.10	1.04
US Emerging Cos	200.30	213.10	+ 0.10	
Ethical	81.82	87.04	+ 0.12	2.15
International	132.30	140.70	- 0.40	0.51
Dividend & Growth	69.26	73.68	+ 0.06	4.17

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	102.17	108.69	+ 0.14	1.84
American Portfolio	121.51	129.10†	+ 0.98	1.03
European Portfolio	132.85	141.05	- 0.40	0.64
High Income	58.02	62.13†	- 0.27	7.45
Japanese Portfolio	58.16	62.76	- 0.64	.
Pacific Portfolio	152.89	164.40†	- 0.38	1.08
UK Equity	97.71	104.31	+ 0.46	3.42
UK Equity & Bd	58.20	61.68	+ 0.02	6.19
UK Smlr Cos	51.41	54.59	+ 0.22	1.25
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	767.93	779.53	- 4.67	4.36
Fxd Int Sec	155.22	155.84	- 0.18	9.18
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	768.69	780.25	- 11.35	4.33
Investment Acc	835.43	836.97	- 52.74	.
Fixed Int Inc	128.48	129.00	- 0.85	8.99
Fixed Int Acc	234.01	234.95	- 1.57	
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	87.38	92.11	- 1.90	5.44
Beck Bio-Tech	43.32	47.11†	.	
Acorn Ethical Tst	186.30	197.73†		0.45
City Fin Assets	78.79	82.74		1.66
City Fin Intl	86.05	90.36	- 2.66	0.14
Fours Hse Cap	314.64	334.72		2.52
Buckley Wrld Grth	132.87	140.84	- 3.18	
J Sid Inc/Gth Inc	57.82	60.72†		3.52
Shaw Utilities	60.28	61.71†	+ 0.14	7.18
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	51.69	54.84	- 0.02	.
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	78.28	83.26	- 0.11	...
Dragon Growth	69.82	74.87	- 0.30	0.33
Equity High Inc	90.73	97.15†	+ 0.39	4.24
-do- Accum	132.18	141.53	+ 0.57	4.24

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 690446				
Sector Value Inc #	105.50	111.30	+ 0.70	3.70
Sector Value Gwth	106.90	112.60	+ 0.10	2.02
Hy 5 Europe	99.84	104.89†	- 0.30	2.40
Slater Gwth	181.00	191.00	- 0.48	0.47
New Japan	88.16	92.97	- 0.72	...
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	189.65	201.70	- 2.90	.
Income #	221.43	235.58	+ 0.16	4.35
UK Growth	87.02	92.57	+ 0.19	1.65

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Equity Growth	83.79	89.06†	- 0.16	0.67
N Amer Growth	138.23	144.72	+ 0.32	0.73
Special Sits Growth	28.30	30.18	+ 0.04	2.20
UK Growth	465.26	496.02	+ 0.75	2.71
-do- Accum	643.86	684.95	+ 1.04	2.71
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1426.50	1448.20†	...	2.90
Income #	1041.80	1058.30	.	4.40
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	165.30	180.00†	..	3.58

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Growth	83.88	89.14	- 0.29	0.45
Ecology	100.22	106.61	- 0.19	0.87
European	204.724	217.78	- 1.21	0.57
Far Eastern	292.81	311.50	- 3.00	.
UK Special Sits	54.76	58.41	+ 0.37	
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	100.60	104.00†	- 0.20	7.15
Euro Ptr Inc	99.50	106.30	+ 0.70	2.75
-do- Accum	99.90	106.30	+ 0.70	2.75
Gilt Yield	118.20	124.70†	- 0.20	6.49
Global Income	229.00	243.60†		3.63
High Yield	157.20	167.20	+ 0.60	5.58

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
0800 363432				
M & S Inv Plotio	179.20	184.80	+ 0.70	2.50
-do- Accum	212.70	219.30	+ 0.80	2.50
UK Sel Plotio	159.40	164.30†	+ 1.20	2.55
-do- Accum	194.20	200.20†	+ 1.50	2.55
UK 100 Cos	118.60	118.60	+ 1.10	2.84
-do- Accum	120.80	120.80	+ 1.10	2.84
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 364 642				
Managed Tst	73.72	78.43		3.52
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4546				
Intl Income	82.60	87.89†	+ 0.73	3.50

هكذا من الامل

■ FILM 1

Frenetic action, an unrelenting soundtrack . . . and Madonna: *Evita* proves to be all lung and no heart

■ FILM 2

. . . but, with Danny DeVito in top form, *Matilda* is a gleeful screen adaptation of Roald Dahl's story

THE TIMES

ARTS

■ FILM 3

. . . and the delightful 1964 Michel Legrand musical, *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*, is back

■ TOMORROW

The amazing return of Peter Green: Fleetwood Mac's founder tells of his journey to hell and back

CINEMA: Madonna emotes her little cotton socks off, but **Geoff Brown** is deafened rather than stirred by *Evita*

Desperately seeking earplugs

Something is wrong with a musical when you keep hoping everyone will shut up. In the film version of **Evita** there is very little silence. Just a few seconds appear here and there before Madonna's Evita, or Antonia Banderas, her Everyman partner, launch into song, or the crowds in the square shout in jubilation, or the army of electric guitars make war on the soundtrack.

We long for pools of contemplation, to ponder the progress of this Eva Duarte from rural Argentine urchin to glamorous, spotlight-hogging wife of the dictator Juan Domingo Perón. But there is simply no time. There is always a dance number to stage, a riot to ignite, or a fancy set to bombard with camera angles. And a star who demands attention like a spoilt child.

Evita
Odeon West End
PG, 133 *mins*
Anyone hear of pianissimo?

The Umbrellas of Cherbourg
Curzon Mayfair
PG, 91 mins
Entrancing musical revived

Matilda
Warner West End
PG, 98 mins
Anarchic lark from Roald Dahl's book

Did it have to be this way? In some ways, yes. Andrew Lloyd Webber's rock opera, originally created in 1976 as a concept record album, is through-composed, and the film does nothing to alter that. Lloyd Webber's notes, allied to Tim Rice's frequently banal lyrics, keep on coming; and it will take a hardened fan of the show — there are plenty, I know — to survive over two hours of impassioned mediocrity.

The choice of director also means this *Evita* had to be the way it is. Alan Parker does not walk on tip-toe. He wears hob-nailed boots; he pummels and pokes, right from the start. The start is dated 1952: News of Eva Perón's death interrupts a movie screening. Then comes the funeral. Massed mourners line the streets; a chorus wails "Requiem aeternam"; a fat climax, after only a few minutes. So it goes on at the same furious pitch as the story backtracks to Evita's youth, her association with tango singer Magaldi (Jimmy Nail), and her ascent into the heart and bed of Colonel, later President, Perón (Jonathan Pryce).

This is history as rock opera. Complex events and characters get reduced to a trite narrative: a peasant girl gets rich and powerful and then, poor thing, she dies. Characters rarely interact, with each other or us; they declaim to the camera, or, more precisely, they mime to the thunderous soundtrack recording. To be sure, there is excitement in the sumptuous orchestral mix and Parker's barrage of images. There is passion and commitment in Madonna's performance, especially when she stands on the balcony, arms outstretched, singing *Don't Cry for Me, Argentina*.

But there is no intimacy, no tenderness, no time for reflection, no variety; everything is thumped home at the same level, everything is presented as spectacle. You may be dazzled, here and there. But you learn nothing. More importantly, you feel nothing.

Oddly enough, *Evita* arrives in the same week as **The Umbrellas of Cherbourg**, Jacques Demy's wonderful musical of 1964, restored and revived in all its pastel-hued splendour. Demy's characters keep on singing too; every morsel of dialogue comes gift-wrapped with Michel Legrand's lilting pop music. But they sing *to* each other, and they sing of intimate, ordinary things that touch the heart: a lover absent in the Algerian war; a pregnancy, badinage among garage workers, even directions to a paint shop. There are real people here, sharing feelings in a world we can grasp and understand.

She loves you, and hopes you love her: the late, great Eva Perón achieves her goal of being played by Madonna

Of course there is artifice in plenty. Gaze at the colours: the yellow cardigan of Catherine Deneuve, or the turquoise dress with purple flowers that just happens to match the wallpaper; or the umbrellas in the shop owned by Deneuve's mother, Anne Vernon.

But the artifice, never stifling, has a point. By painting Cherbourg in fairy-tale hues, Demy and his talented colleagues are creating a romantic dream against which the characters' disappointments must be measured. Deneuve — achingly beautiful, and all of 19 at the time of shooting — gets pregnant by Nino Castelnuovo's garage hand, only to lose him to time and fate. In his absence, a rich diamond merchant (Marc Michel) makes his bid, and succeeds. Castelnuovo returns to his own substitute marriage. Such is life, pretty colours or no.

The Umbrellas of Cherbourg has so many ingredients that most modern films have no interest in gathering. It has a sense of proportion and an integrated style: the thought of bombarding the viewer with theme-park attractions never struck Demy, his designer Jean Rabier, or his art director Bernard Evein. The film has genuine charm, and a wistful brand of sentiment with enough specks of vinegar to stop things curdling into mush. Handsomely restored after circulating for too long in faded prints, it is the connoisseur's No 1 Christmas attraction.

"You villainous sack of gobsmite!" "You squirming worm of vomit!" This is Roald Dahl-speak, and there is enough of the master's boisterous anarchy and language left in the film of **Matilda** to delight his young fans. Since this is an American adaptation, the story has been shifted to California, where we find Mara Wilson's precocious young heroine suffering under the thumb of two crass, self-regarding parents.

Father (Danny DeVito, who also directs) touches up wrecked cars and sells them to suckers. Mother (Rhea Perlman) is concerned only with her looks. So what if Matilda's IQ reaches the stratosphere? Father knows best: "There's nothing you can't get from a book that you can't get from television faster!"

Observations like that appeal to adults. Other elements in the mix are more designed for a child's guffaws. Take Miss Trunchbull, the fearsome headmistress of Crunchem Hall, played by our own Pam Ferris. Trunchbull snarls out her insults, flexes her whip, and is strong enough to grab a child by the pigtails and hurl her far and wide. Luckily, young audiences know that the bigger the crime, the bigger the comeuppance; and when it comes, DeVito does not disappoint.

No film could be further removed from the blandness of most family entertainment. Wilson, the appealing young player from *Miracle on 34th Street*, may smile sweetly, but she's not the kind of moppet who causes a wince. As director, DeVito keeps the visuals edgy, and the tone one of gleeful exaggeration. You cannot make a successful Dahl adaptation without some mischief, and this delightful, prancing film has it in spades.

'Too much music'

Young film fans give their thoughts on . . .

☐ EVITA

Michelle Robertson, 22: Perhaps too much of the musical side, with an evident lack of direction in places. Still, you'll be guaranteed to leave your seat singing *Don't Cry for Me, Argentina*.

Annabel Chapman, 21: Good acting but, all in all, your typical banal Lloyd Webber musical.

Lorenza Rowell, 20: A spectacular but sentimental production in which Madonna and Antonio Banderas perform well.

Lizanne Rose, 22: As with most Lloyd Webber musicals there comes a point in the second half when all the songs sound exactly the same. *Don't Cry for Me* became especially irritating when Madonna started on her fourth rendition.

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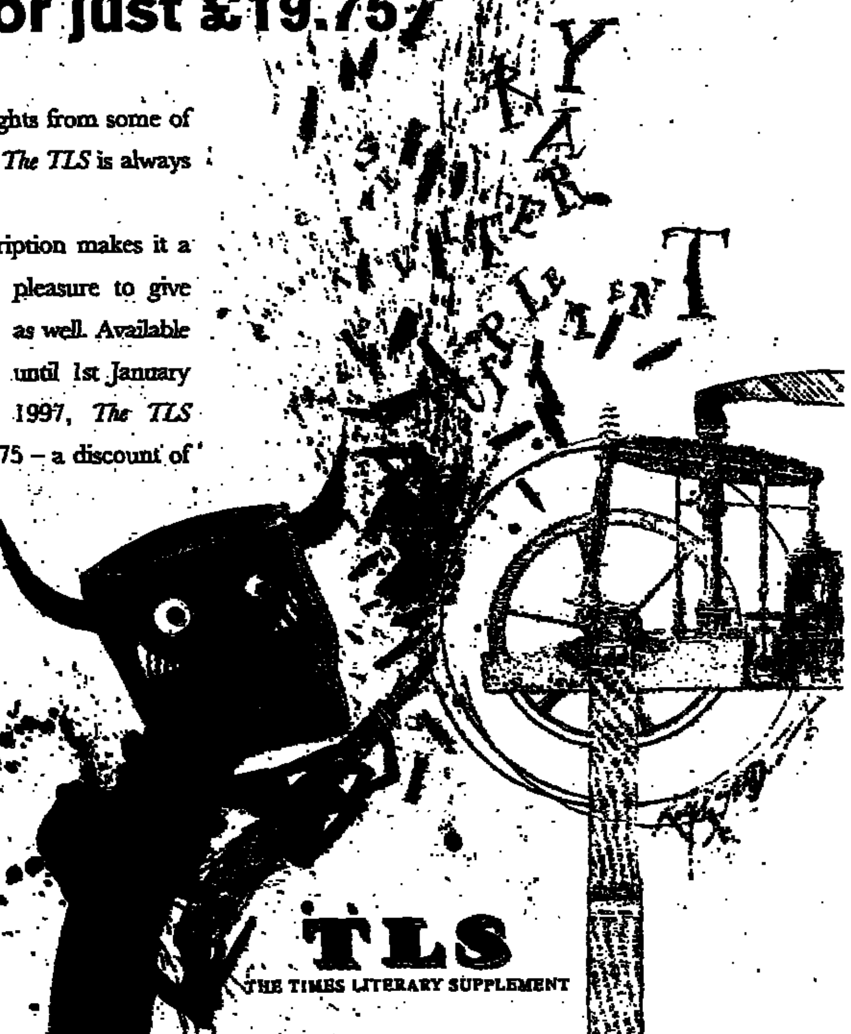

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■ CHOICE 1

Courtney Pine brings his *Modern Day Jazz Stories* to the South Bank

VENUE: Tonight at the Queen Elizabeth Hall

■ CHOICE 2

An RSC debut for Leslie Phillips, as Falstaff in *The Merry Wives*

VENUE: Opens tonight at the RST, Stratford

THE TIMES ARTS

■ NEW VIDEOS

Eddie Murphy finds a blackly comic vehicle in Wes Craven's *Vampire in Brooklyn*

■ NEW CDS

Felicity Lott goes all French and frothy on a new recording of Offenbach and other bonbons

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

BT CHRISTMAS CONCERT Bob Holness introduces an evening blending favourite Christmas carols, gospel songs, and a dash of calypso magic. Richard Cooke conducts the Royal Choral Society and the London Concert Orchestra, with supporting performances by the London Community Gospel Choir, the BT Band and Melodians' Steel Orchestra.
Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212). Tonight, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos conducts the LSO in a flamboyant programme featuring Rossini's overture to *L'Italiana in Algeri*, Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No 2 and Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*. The piano soloist is Horacio Gutierrez.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm Ⓢ

COURTNEY PINE: The youthful leading light of British jazz brings his progressive, independent brand of music to the South Bank. The programme features tracks from his Mercury-nominated album, *Modern Day Jazz Stories*
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). 7.45pm. Ⓢ

ELSEWHERE

EDINBURGH In an atmospheric concert by candlelight, the **BT Scottish Ensemble** performs John Tavener's powerful new work, *Tears of the Angels*, dedicated to "the suffering people of the Balkans." The programme also features music by Bach, Corelli, Pärt and Leighton
Queen's Hall, Clerk Street (0131-668 2019). Tonight, 7.45pm.

LEEDS Opening night of a second season for Opera North's new production of **Madama Butterfly**. Puccini's tragic tale of love and betrayal across cultural boundaries. Chinese soprano Chen Sue sings the role of the steadfast geisha Cio-Cio, with American tenor Mark Nicolson as Pinkerton. Paul Daniel conducts.
Grand Theatre, 46 New Briggate (0113 245 9351/440971). Tonight, 7.15pm. Further performances on January 3, 21, 30 and February 1 Ⓢ

STRATFORD. A belated Royal Shakespeare Company debut for Leslie Phillips, playing Falstaff, with Susannah York (also her debut), Edward Petherbridge and Joanna McCallum in **The Merry Wives of Windsor**. Ian Judge directs.
Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Waterside (01789 295623). Opens tonight, 7pm. In rep with *Much Ado*. Ⓢ

WOKING Gary Wilmot stars as Buttons in the romantic story of **Cinderella**, who meets her Prince Charming and goes to the ball. Rolf Harris, complete with didgeridoo, plays Baron Hardup, with Robin Cousins (who skates on a specially constructed ice rink) and "Spit" the dog
New Victoria, Peacocks Arts Centre (01483 761144). Opens today. Then Mon-Sat, 2.30pm and 7.30pm; Sun, 1.30pm and 5.30pm. Until February 2. Ⓢ

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum: Mysteries of Ancient China; Japanese Arts (0171-636 1555) . . . **Catto:** Dennis Syrett "The Sun Sets Over Hong Kong" (0171-435 6660) . . . **Chris Beetles:** The British Art of Illustration, 1780-1996 (0171-839 7551) . . . **Courtauld:** Sir William Chambers Architect to George III (0171-873 2526) . . . **Curwen**, Fitzrovia Gallery Opening Exhibition, "Salon des Graphiques" (0171-636 1459) **Hayward:** Howard Hodgkin: Paintings (0171-928 3144) . . . **Portland:** Twentieth Century Scottish Artists (0171-321 0422) . . . **Royal Academy:** Alberto Giacometti 1901-1966; From Mantegna to Picasso (0171-439 7438) **Tate:** Grand Tour. The Lure of Italy in the 18th Century (0171-887 8000) . . . **Tom Blau:** Open Ended, new work from nine contemporary photographers (0171-378 1300)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

◪ **THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN** Daniel Newman plays Huck and Clive Llewellyn is Jim in Mark Twain's masterpiece, adapted and directed by Matthew Francis
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm. Until January 25

☐ **AS YOU LIKE IT.** Steven Pimlott's superbly cast production from this year's Stratford comes to London where it will run until March
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight-Sat, 7.15pm, mat today and Sat, 2pm. In rep. Ⓢ

☐ **THE BEAUTY QUEEN OF LEENANE:** Quick revival for Martin McDonagh's well-crafted and gripping drama of love lost in Connemara. A change of cast brings Jane Brennan in as the frustrated daughter to Anna Manahan. Garry Hynes directs
Royal Court (Duke of York's), St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-565 5000). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 3.30pm

☐ **LE CERCLE INVISIBLE.** Victoria Chaplin and Jean-Baptiste Thierrée return with their strange and dreamlike evocation of the arts of circus
Mermaid, Puddle Dock, Blackfriars, EC4 (0171-236 2211). Tue-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sun, 4pm. Also perfs on Dec 23, 30, 7.30pm, and mats on Dec 24, 26, 31, Jan 1, 4pm. Until January 12

☐ **A DOLL'S HOUSE:** No superlatives high enough for Janet McTeer in Anthony Page's first-class production of Ibsen's proto-feminist drama.
Playhouse, Northumberland Ave, WC2 (0171-839 4401). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm.

◪ **FAIR LADIES AT A GAME OF POEM CARDS.** Verse play by Peter Oswald, based on an 18th-century Japanese puppet play: forbidden love at court, with David Haig playing one of the obstacles the lovers must overcome.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm. In rep

◪ **JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR.** Restored theatre, revived show, the theatre after 56 years, the show back to celebrate its 25th anniversary. Gale Edwards directs.
Lyceum, Wellington Street, WC2 (0171-656 1807, booking fee). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

☐ **LAUGHTER ON THE 23RD FLOOR:** Neil Simon's funny account of working among a team of scriptwriters for comedian Sid Caesar back in the 1950s. Gene Wilder plays Sid.
Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5040). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat 4pm.

☐ **OLD WICKED SONGS:** Bob Hoskins returns to the stage to play a Viennese music professor teaching Schumann to an arrogant young pianist (James Callis). Elijah Moshinsky directs Jon Marans's play.
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Tue, 2.30pm, and Sat, 4pm

◪ **SWANWHITE.** Imaginative British premiere of Strindberg fairytale. Haunting effects
Gate, Pembridge Road, W11 (0171-229 0706). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Until December 21

LONG RUNNERS

◪ **Buddy:** Strand (0171-930 8800) ◪ **Cats:** New London (0171-405 0072) ☐ **An Ideal Husband:** Old Vic (0171-928 7616) . . . ◪ **An Inspector Calls:** Garrick (0171-494 5085) . . . ◪ **Les Misérables:** Palace (0171-434 0909) ☐ **The Mousetrap**, St Martin's (0171-836 1443) . . . ◪ **Oliver!:** Palladium (0171-494 5020) ■ **The Phantom of the Opera:** Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) . . . ◪ **Sunset Boulevard:** Adelphi (0171-344 0055) . . . ☐ **Tommy:** Shaftesbury (0171-379 5399)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

ACTS OF LOVE (18): Flawed drama boosted by Dennis Hopper's performance as a teacher in the Midwest, carried away by passion. Director, Bruno Barreto. With Amy Irving and Amy Locane.
Warner (0171-437 4343)

◆ **101 DALMATIANS** (U): Glenn Close knocks spots off the dogs in the live-action edition of the cartoon classic. With Jeff Daniels and Joely Richardson. Director, Stephen Herek.
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426-915 683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636)

◆ **STAR TREK: FIRST CONTACT** (12): Patrick Stewart's Enterprise crew battles the Borgs. Acceptable adventure, if a little too serious. With Brent Spiner, Alice Krige. Director, Jonathan Frakes.
ABC Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Empire** (0990-888 990) **Notting Hill Coronet** Ⓢ (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Plaza** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031)

STEAL BIG, STEAL LITTLE (12): Ham-fisted comic fable about twin brothers (Andy Garcia) disputing an inheritance. Director, Andrew Davis.
Warner (0171-437 4343)

TWO MUCH (PG): Antonio Banderas invents a twin brother, so he can woo both Melanie Griffith and Daryl Hannah. Flat romantic comedy, directed by Fernando Trueba.
Virgin Trocadero (0171-434 0031)

CURRENT

LE BONHEUR (15): Broad comedy about domestic woes and French lifestyles, with Michel Serrault, Sabine Azéma and, briefly, Eric Cantona. Director, Etienne Chatiliez.
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720) **Virgin Haymarket** (0171-839 1527)

◆ **BRASSED OFF** (15): Yorkshire colliery band fights for survival. Sugary comedy with a few drops of vinegar. With Pete Postlethwaite, Tara Fitzgerald, Ewan McGregor. Director, Mark Herman
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-836 6148) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Empire** (0800-888 911) **Odeons: Mezzanine** Ⓢ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (0171-586 3057) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

◆ **HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS** (15): Uneven comedy about a dysfunctional family, directed by Jodie Foster. With Holly Hunter and Robert Downey Jr.
Curzon W E (0171-369 1722) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/the Hill** (0171-435 3366)

KANSAS CITY (15): Too much artifice in Robert Altman's tale of crime and jazz in 1930s Kansas City. With Jennifer Jason Leigh, Miranda Richardson, Harry Belafonte.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Everyman** Ⓢ (0171-435 1525)

THE LAST OF THE HIGH KINGS (15): Pleasant coming-of-age saga set in Dublin, 1977. With Jared Leto and Catherine O'Hara.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

MR RELIABLE (15): Petty criminal becomes folk hero in late-1960s Sydney. Engaging Aussie comedy with Colin Friels and Jacqueline McKenzie. Director, Nadia Tass
Plaza Ⓢ (0990 888990)

Vamping in a New York vein

NEW ON VIDEO

■ VAMPIRE IN BROOKLYN
CIC, 15, 1995
VASTLY uneven horror comic, starring Eddie Murphy as an elegant Caribbean vampire with golden eyes seeking to propagate his kind in New York. Murphy's preening ways find a useful outlet, but ultimately the film is better at being horrific than being funny. The director is Wes Craven, ghoulish joker of *A Nightmare on Elm Street*. Available to rent.

■ ANGEL BABY
Electric, 15, 1995
AVOID all sign of Christmas cheer by renting this confidently handled and abrasive Australian film about disturbed young lovers. A promising new director, Michael Rymer, propels the story forward; and John Lynch and Jacqueline McKenzie (the girl in *Mr Reliable*) excel in their roles as the couple trying for domestic bliss with everything against them. The film won seven Australian Film Institute awards.

■ THE WILD WEST
Channel 4, E, 1995
THE absorbing six-part American television series about the making and breaking of the American West is now available in two videos totalling more than five hours. Ric Burns's programmes make history come alive through archive photographs, paintings and early film footage. Talking heads are also on offer to guide us from the pioneer days of the 1840s through the Indian wars, the building of the transcontinental railroad, to the Sioux massacre at Wounded Knee in 1890.

Blood relations: Angela Bassett succumbs to the toothy charms of Eddie Murphy in *Vampire in Brooklyn*

■ THE JAMES DEAN STORY
Orbit Screen Classics, E, 1957
A YOUNG Robert Altman served as co-director of this documentary (made two years after Dean's death), though the assemblage of material remains disappointing, weakened by bursts of pretentious symbolism and sluggish pacing. Where the film scores is in catching in interview Dean's family, friends, his drama teacher and a highway patrolman so soon after the star's meteoric career.

■ GLASTONBURY FAYRE
Redemption, 15, 1973
THE sleevenote promises a cast including "10,000 stoned hippies". I soon stopped counting; but the audience gathered in 1971 for Somerset's five-day spiritual celebration and musical orgy certainly take centre stage as they salute the dawn, strip off their clothing, and disport themselves like Beautiful People. Performers include Arthur Brown and Kingdom Come, Fairport Convention, Traffic and Melanie; talent behind the camera includes Nicolas Roeg and David Puttnam. Cinematically incoherent, but a valuable historical document.

GEOFF BROWN

NEW CLASSICAL CDs: A Roman Christmas circa 1705; whole Lott of fun; rediscovering Marek

VOCAL

Hilary Finch

■ SCARLATTI
Cantata per la Notte di Natale
Concerto Italiano
Opus 111 OPS 30-156★★★
£14.49
CHRISTMAS Eve in the Apostolic Palace in Rome, 1705: Abraham, Daniel, Ezekiel, Isaiah and Jeremiah are all gathered together in limbo to await the coming of the Messiah. Well, it certainly gives a new angle to the story and challenged the Sicilian composer Alessandro Scarlatti to provide at least 20 different modes of rejoicing in as many arias. A soprano Daniel has a vision of spring to rival Vivaldi's; a tender oboe accompanies his pastoral cradle song; Isaiah dances with glee, and Abraham is a remarkably agile and venerable bass.

Only poor Jeremiah sheds prophetically bitter tears: lamentation, after all, is his prerogative — and he introduces Claudio Cavina as a formidable counter-tenor. He, four other soloists, and the excellent instrumentalists of the Concerto Italiano lovingly recreate this Opus 111 find.

In total contrast, yet no less irresistible, is a compendium of **Christmas Music from English Parish Churches 1740-1830** (Hyperion CDA 66924). After hearing Peter Holman's Parley of Instruments and the fresh-faced vocalists of Psalmody carol their way through the likes of Thomas Clark of Canterbury, William Matthews of Nottingham and John Foster of Sheffield, *Hark the Herald Angels* will never sound the same.

OPERETTA

John Higgins

■ FELICITY LOTT S'AMUSE
Felicity Lott/Graham Johnson
Forlane UCD 16760★★★
£13.49
A DELECTABLE recital, which carries all the bittersweet flavour of high-class French boulevard comedy. Felicity Lott turns herself into a combination of Danielle Darrieux and Edwige Feuillère as she moves from tipsy suppers, music provided by Offenbach, to the foxtrots of Maurice Yvain.

The mood is often risqué but never roguish. Lott is careful to mix sentimental and even serious numbers with the more suggestive ones. So Chausson and Duparc are found here alongside Erik Satie, who provides a delicious waltz, and Oscar Strauss, with a song about the necessity of putting on an act. Nobody is better at doing that than Lott and within a few bars she has whisked her audience off to the world of Sacha Guitry and Yvonne Printemps, where a flirt can dish the dirt.

Overall, charm outweighs mockery, with much of the latter left to Graham Johnson's knowing and ever responsive piano accompaniment. The title comes from a number in Offenbach's posthumous operetta, *Belle Lurette*, in which the singer laments that when the show is over the lights go out: on CD it is possible to start all over again. Any Francophile after a Christmas record need look no further.

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from The Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ MAREK
Sinfonia: Suite for Orchestra: Méditations
Philharmonia/Brain
Koch 3-6439-2★★★ £14.49
CZESLAW MAREK (1891-1985) is a Swiss composer of Polish origin who merits barely a mention in the musical dictionaries. Yet the recently rediscovered oeuvre is a major addition to the repertoire and Koch is to be congratulated for committing itself to recording the entire works of this fascinating composer.

Volume 1 includes the Sinfonia, a single-movement structure of half an hour's duration, which was Marek's entry for an international composition competition in 1928 (it won first prize in the national zone and came close to winning the overall prize). Confronting the late Romanticism of his background with the Neo-Classicism of the 1920s, with a dash of folkloric seasoning, the Sinfonia inhabits an utterly unique sound world. Its effects of colour are as precisely calculated as its structural coherence is impressive.

The Suite for Orchestra, Op 25, of 1926 and the *Méditations* of 1911-13 are likewise wholly individual scores, even if the latter is clearly a product of the Austro-German School (Marek had been studying in Vienna). Gary Brain, tireless proselytiser for causes such as Marek, draws refined, accomplished performances from the Philharmonia. Further volumes are keenly awaited.

★ Worth hearing
★★ Worth considering
★★★ Worth buying

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ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL 0171 960 4242 English National Ballet THE NUTCRACKER 16 Dec - 11 Jan Eves 7.30pm Mats 21,23,24,26,27,28,30,31 Dec 1,2,3,4,11 Jan 2.30pm No perfs Sun

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THEATRES

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هكذا من الاصل

■ DANCE

Tchaikovsky all the way: English and Russian versions of *The Nutcracker* compete in London

■ THEATRE

Rocking the boat nicely: the National Theatre revives its fine staging of *Guys and Dolls*

THE TIMES ARTS

■ MUSIC

Judith Weir and other contemporary composers jostle with the greats in an intriguing *touring programme*

■ OFFER

Reduced prices for Bob Hoskins on stage in *Old Wicked Songs*: see Theatre Club panel

Rival Nutcrackers offer sweet contrasts

DANCE: **Debra Craine** on the battle in London between English and Russian stagings of Tchaikovsky's classic

Christmas is the season of *Nutcrackers*, and London has two giants to choose from. On Monday **English National Ballet** opened its annual run at the Festival Hall, where its productions of the Yuletide classic have played to more than three million people since 1952, making it one of the most durable traditions in 20th-century ballet. Then on Tuesday at the Coliseum came the heavyweight foreigners, the Kirov, unveiling their St Petersburg *Nutcracker*, a grandchild of the original Maryinsky Theatre production from 1892.

The English *Nutcracker* is as pretty as a German Christmas card, twinkling snow carpeting the branches outside the Stahlbaum's solid middle-class home. Inside, Desmond Heeley's handsome set suggests cosy family get-togethers and festive high spirits.

Ben Stevenson's choreography does the job well enough in Act I's party scene. But once Clara and her Nutcracker Prince are transported to the Land of Snow, imagination moves up a notch. A flurry of lively formations for the corps de ballet of Snowflakes frames an attractive Torvill and Dean-tinted routine for the Prince and the Snow Queen.

Act II honours belong to Heeley, though, whose flying pastry chefs wittily animate the Kingdom of Sweets. Stevenson's choreographic language doesn't match the setting for sparkle. But then, neither did ENB's opening-night cast, led by Lisa Pavane's Sugar Plum Fairy, Greg Horsman's Prince and Daria Klimentova's Snow Queen, offer much more than efficiency in dancing it.

This is ENB's farewell to the Festival Hall. Next December it will cross the Thames to the Coliseum with a new *Nutcracker* by Derek Deane.

The Kirov, meanwhile, is still performing Vainonen's 1934 production, with later designs by Simon Virsaladze. This is a world far removed from the relaxed bonhomie of the ENB staging. The Kirov Stahlbaums are seriously upper-class, ensconced in a blue blood's grand residence, with elegant architectural detailing and the finest of French furniture.

The children are well-behaved (much older, too), and regimented into formal dances, while their parents wear powdered wigs and the latest Napoleonic fashions. There is nothing remotely "old German town" about Virsaladze's effusively aristocratic vision in pink. Yet as a period piece it holds a certain fascination.

The Russians present their *Nutcracker* in three acts, with Masha's dream (or Clara, as she is known in Western stagings) standing alone as an act in itself. The transformation scene unfolds sedately and lacks the magic we have come to expect; while the Kingdom of Sweets has been replaced by Fairyland, a sunlit garden of summery botanical delights (a fantasy every bit as alluring as a chocolate box in the middle of a Russian winter).

Vainonen's production borrows too freely from Petipa and Ivanov, the great choreographers of Imperial Russia. The snow scene is straight out of Act II of *Swan Lake*, Ivanov's sublime poetry reiterated in the rows of feathery tutued snowflakes — a starring moment for the corps de ballet almost ruined by the clump, clump, clump of heavy Russian pointe shoes on the Coliseum stage.

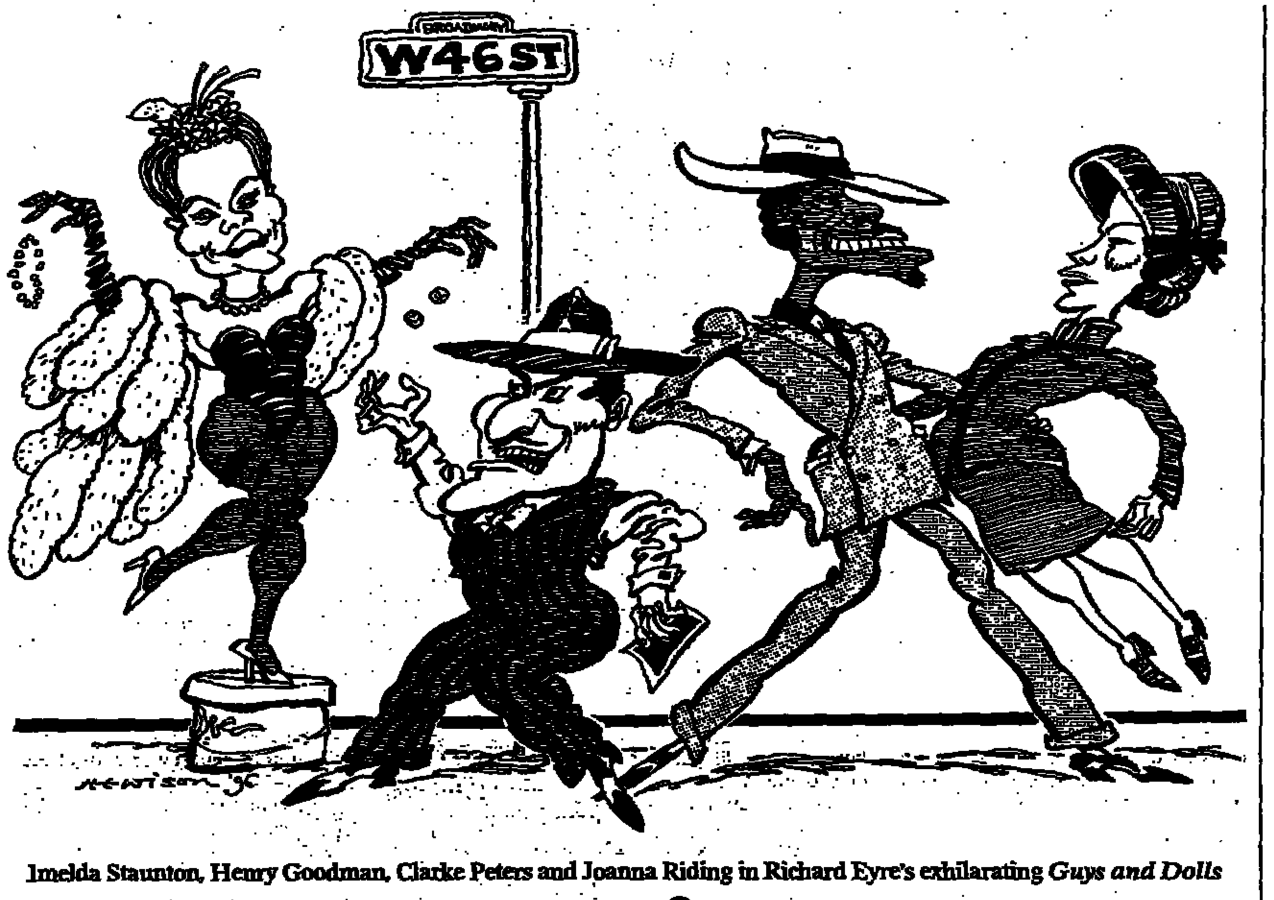
And the grand pas de deux, usually the exclusive province of the Sugar Plum Fairy (here called the Princess) and the Nutcracker Prince, turns into a reprise of Petipa's Rose Adagio from *The Sleeping Beauty*, with the ballerina passing from partner to partner in a display of poised balances.

Diana Vishneva was the opening night Princess, a sweet dancer with a ready smile and one of the new young faces of the Kirov. Ultra-slim and long-limbed, she typifies the kind of dancer Oleg Vinogradov has encouraged in recent years — sapped of strength in the lower body but endowed with generous breadth in the upper body. Her Prince was Farouk Ruzimatov, shorn of his extraordinary locks these days and looking more than a little humbled by the passing years. Elsewhere in the cast, alarm bells were sounding that the fabled Kirov technique is being sacrificed to Vinogradov's aesthetic dogma. Some of the spindly-legged dancers looked virtually anorexic.

The Kirov is accompanied by the *Royal Ballet Sinfonia*, which gave a rich and agile account of Tchaikovsky's score under Kirov conductor Boris Gruzin.

DEE CONWAY

The Kirov *Nutcracker* at the Coliseum evokes a formal world far removed from ENB's relaxed Festival Hall production



Imelda Staunton, Henry Goodman, Clarke Peters and Joanna Riding in Richard Eyre's exhilarating *Guys and Dolls*

Loesser is more

THEATRE

Guys and Dolls
Olivier

Will Richard Eyre's revival of *Guys and Dolls* prove as great a boon for the National Theatre and its audiences as his original production of the show at the same address 14 years ago? Don't ask silly questions. Those on the politically severe margins may object to the Runyonesque crosstalk — "If a guy don't have a doll, who's gonna yell at him? A doll is a necessity" — but they can stay at home with their soya-bean roasts and boiled-water cocktails. Those with a bit of festivity in their spirits can corner the fun.

Frank Loesser's musical is preposterously good-natured. It is a tale of warm-hearted gamblers and well-meaning Salvationists which has for its hero a warm-hearted gambler who becomes a well-meaning Salvationist. Off goes Sky Masterson to Havana with the earnest young tub-thumper, Sarah Brown, winning $1,000 by pulling the most unlikely doll in New York. But the agreeable paradox is, of course, that he also wins her and she wins him.

John Gunter fills the vast Olivier stage with the sort of sets it needs and too seldom gets: not just skyscrapers, but neon lights advertising everything from gum to Scotch, tiny kiosks, a dowdy bar and a grotty eaterie offering (this being the 1950s) a French roast for 10 cents.

But it is the human decor that really matters, and that means hoods in mauve, coral, turquoise suits, and chorus girls dressed as anything from feathery hens to comically undulating socialites. The choreography, down to a nightclub tango that evolves into a riot, is sharper and more accomplished than I recall it being in 1982.

The principals do well, too. Clarke Peters is a wry, cool Sky who exudes easy charm, and Joanna Riding a sweet and serious Sarah capable of jumping, kicking and even tapping with the best of them.

But, as always, it is the subplot that proves the most fun. Back in 1982 Bob Hoskins was the gamester Nathan Detroit and Julia Mackenzie the fiancée who has waited to marry him for a decade and a half. Now the duo are Henry Goodman and Imelda Staunton. He has the nervy, driven quality of a guy who must simultaneously organise an illegal crap-game, please Chicago gangsters, and convince his doll he is doing neither. She is a wonderful, wiggling blend of elf and troll, hilarious but touching as, in a celebrated song, she describes the unwed aeons in terms of colds, coughs, flu and hypochondriac symptoms galore.

But then so many numbers are so witty and so hummable. After *A Bushel and a Peck* comes *I've Never Been in Love Before*, and after *Luck Be a Lady* comes a rendering of *Sit Down, You're Rocking the Boat* rousingly led by Clive Rowe. Is there a more exhilarating show on offer this yuletide? If so, I don't know it.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

● *This review appeared in later editions of* The Times *yesterday*

THIS WEEK'S FESTIVE SPECIAL OFFERS

THE TIMES
THE THEATRE CLUB

LONDON
Arts Theatre
Jan 7-8 (8pm): 10-11 (7pm, 9pm)
● A SHARP and witty comedy, Dan Rebellato's *Showstopper* tells the story of *Marni Nixon*, who provided the crystal-clear singing voice for Natalie Wood in *West Side Story*, Deborah Kerr in *The King and I* and, *most famously*, Audrey Hepburn in *My Fair Lady*. Tickets £7 (normally £10). Tel 0171-836 2132 and quote your membership number

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Playhouse
Jan 2; 7-9; 14-16
● TICKETS £5 (normally £7.50) for *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Tel 01934 645544

NEWCASTLE
Playhouse
Jan 28
● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £6 to £10) to see the Richard Alston Dance Company and attend a post-show discussion. Tel 0191-230 5151

MANCHESTER
Library Theatre
Jan 22-23
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Playhouse
Jan 21-22
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SALISBURY
Playhouse
Jan 16-Feb 8
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Festival Theatre
Jan 10-11
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● CLUB members can enjoy big savings on tickets to West End shows this Christmas. All offers are subject to availability

Dec 24 & 26 (2.30pm). Garrick Theatre. *An Inspector Calls*. Tickets £12.50 (normally up to £24). Tel 0171-494 5085

Dec 24 & 26 (2.30pm). Gielgud Theatre. *Old Wicked Songs*. £10 (normally up to £24). Tel 0171-494 5065

Dec 24, 26, 27, Jan 2 (3pm); Dec 31, Jan 1-2 (7.45pm). Phoenix Theatre. *Blood Brothers*. £16 (normally £27.50). Tel 0171-369 1733

Dec 23-Jan 4 (excluding Sat evenings). Whitehall Theatre. *Cash On Delivery*. £10 (normally £22). Tel 0171-369 1735

Dec 23, 26, 30, 31, Jan 2 (7.30pm); Dec 24, 27, Jan 2 (3pm). Old Vic. *An Ideal Husband*. Two for the price of one (normally £24). Tel 0171-928 7616

Dec 23-24 (3pm). Lyric Theatre. *By Jeeves*. £20 (normally £25). Tel 0171-494 5045

Dec 23-24 (3pm). Apollo Victoria. *Starlight Express*. £20 (normally £27). Tel 0171-416 6070

Dec 23-24 (3pm). Adelphi Theatre. *Sunset Boulevard*. £20 (normally £32.50). Tel 0171-344 0055

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LONDON CONCERTS

Good, evil and whoops of joy

BCMG/Harding
QEH

Three works of the last decade, framed by a pair of 20th-century classics, formed the attractive programme given by the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group at the Queen Elizabeth Hall as part of a Contemporary Music Network tour.

The concert opened with an account of Ravel's *Introduction and Allegro* that spotlit Robert Johnston's virtuosity on the harp more than usual. But the iridescent play of colours in that score is arguably served no less well by such crystalline clarity than by the traditional shimmering impressionistic haze, and that immediacy prepared us well for what was to follow.

Mark-Anthony Turnage's *Kai* is a requiem for Kai Scheffler, the German cellist who died in 1989. Its elegiac cast is the product of two contrasting strains: a poignant cello cantabile (played eloquently by Ulrich Heinen) and a jazz element provided by two saxophones, bass guitar and drum kit.

Those counteractive features were held in skilful equilibrium by Daniel Harding, directing a fine performance by these accomplished players.

David Lang's *My Evil Twin* is said by its composer explicitly to embody the interaction of opposing impulses, good and bad (hence the title). "Happy melodies" supposedly struggle against "angry walls of sound", but to these ears there was little distinction between the two types of incessant ostinati.

A model of how to prevent motivic ideas outstaying their welcome is provided by Judith Weir's miniature opera *The Consolations of Scholarship*. Drawing on Chinese sources and to some extent the style of the ancient Yuan drama, the work is exemplary in its economical handling of means to expressive ends.

From a pool of a mere nine instruments, an oboe and a clarinet combine in a sinuous melody that is the distilled essence of the alluring but implacable face of the Orient. Another scene incorporates a patter song and a dialogue, complete with conspiratorial asides — all delivered by the admirable Mary King, whose striking of mock-horror attitudes provided all the staging needed.

The performance of Schoenberg's Chamber Symphony No 1 that followed not only completed the symmetry of the programme, but also brought it to an extraordinary end. The way Harding and his players integrated the late Romantic aspects (redolent of Wagner's *Siegfried* Idyll at times) with the more rigorous contrapuntal discourse in their surging, impulsive account, was quite remarkable. The conclusion was greeted with spontaneous whoops of joy. Even the players looked exhilarated.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Songs with Slavonic soul

Galina Gorchakova
Wigmore Hall

FOLLOWERS of Galina Gorchakova, who loyally traced her every anguished breath through *Vissi d'arte* in *Tosca* at Covent Garden recently, were honoured with an action replay, *Hilary Finch writes*. Puccini's aria was the inevitable encore at the end of an otherwise entirely Russian programme. No less inevitable, perhaps, were the signs of fatigue shown by the Siberian soprano as she packed the obligatory recital into her busy schedule of international operatic engagements.

She certainly garnered every atom of her strength for the occasion. The determination and sheer physical overdrive that a singer of her breed and training can muster *in extremis* is formidable; so is the finely tuned support of her feisty accompanist Larissa Gergieva. But what we heard was that extraordinary explosion of resonance which is Gorchakova's head voice at its loudest — and which seems an emanation of her body and soul; and a haunting, characteristically smoky half-voice in the lower register. The gear changes, and the area in between, seemed enervated.

But this was not all we heard. Gorchakova is still young, yet her artistry is remarkably mature. The listener can forgive and forget vocal shortcomings when the singer makes such a deep and complete experience of a song like Tchaikovsky's *He Loved Me So*. From the subtle ambiguity within her first declaration "No, I did not love him!", Gorchakova created a miniature dramatic *scena* out of the song.

Gorchakova's skill as a recitalist also told in the cunning pacing of two, semi-murmured opening songs by Glazunov, followed by a slow crescendo of intensity, complete with eloquent body language, into the reflective settings of Grechaninov, and on to Tchaikovsky. In between came a little song about a fountain by Taneyev, a welcome shaft of sunlight in an evening of relentless Slavonic introspection.

Anton Rubinstein's *Melody* found its verbal support in poetry by Ramadze, just as his piano piece *Night* was later furnished with words by Pushkin; and Gergieva clearly enjoyed them as much as Gorchakova. Her contribution to the lighter, salon miniatures of Cesar Cui showed just what an exceptional accompanist she is, filling in their seemingly insignificant brushstrokes with the highest art.

Wily silly Willie

RADIO

IT WAS a voice that resonated with authority on the edge of desperation and it was, above all, unmistakable. Therefore the voice of Willie Rushton was made for radio, and much of the radio broadcasting he did seemed made for him.

Rushton the man died last week, but Rushton the broadcaster was still alive last Saturday and again on Monday of this week, when Radio 4 correctly went ahead with the broadcast (and the repeat) of the last in the present series of **I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue**.

The genius of Rushton was that he could be brilliantly silly, which is the point of the programme itself. This is the best comedy in all of radio, a half-hour of pointless verbal gymnastics, combining revue, satire and seaside double entendre in a grand tradition that goes back to *ITMA* and *The Goon Show*.

Ostensibly a panel game, *I'm Sorry* is chaired by Humphrey Lyttelton: when the word urbane entered the language, Lyttelton was put on earth to save us looking it up. But it was Rushton whose ability as a lateral thinker and re-moulder of language defined the programme. This week there was a round in which the panel had to suggest titles that would please the manufacturers of biscuits. Rushton suggested *The Singing Digestive*.

In an absorbing **Sunday Feature** — *The Road to Ballina*, Jakko Kakszyk, once the guitarist with the pop group Level 42, traced in music his own confused roots (he was adopted by Polish-French parents) and the roots of his lost mother, an Irish singer from Ballina. Kakszyk's musical journey illustrated, without ever straining to do so, the turmoil of postwar Europe and its shaping of a generation.

PETER BARNARD

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

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The Times offers readers the chance to win every family's dream car — the new Toyota Picnic Family Fun Vehicle which will be going on sale in the UK for the first time in January. The six-seater has been designed to make travelling with children a more comfortable experience.

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CHANGING TIMES

هكذا في الأصل

A passion deeply implanted in the human breast

Roger Scruton examines the link between between hunting and the life of the countryside

CONFESSIONS OF
A SHOOTING
FISHING MAN
By Laurence Catlow
Merlin Unwin Books, £17.99
ISBN 1 873674 24 4

This is a curious book, latest in a long tradition of curious books, from Isaac Walton's *Compleat Angler* to Siegfried Sassoon's *Memoirs of a Fox-hunting Man*, dedicated to the rural pursuits of eccentric Englishmen. Some of the most imaginative prose in the English language has emerged from this tradition — witness Surtees, Trollope and T. H. White; there is no doubt that our perception of the English countryside and its meaning has been shaped beyond measure by those who have tried to capture in words the mysterious joys of hunting, shooting and fishing.

The sportsman, unlike the farmer, looks on the countryside as an end in itself rather than a means of profit. His soul runs out into woods and streams and fields with the untroubled joy of a child, and around his immediate aim of catching fish, fowl or fox, there grows a passionate love of the natural world, a sense of his own situation within it, and a vivid attachment to a place and a time.

Those are the feelings that Laurence Catlow tries to convey in this diary of his sporting year in Cumbria, where he is resident Classics master at a minor public school. It is the work of a very unmodern person, with a romantic attitude to nature. The diary gives no evidence whatsoever of human relationships, other than those which are the normal lot of an old-fashioned bachelor schoolmaster. Apart from wine and fives, Catlow's emotions are entirely expended on the natural world, which he describes with the same conviction of its miraculous and consoling character as an Edward Thomas or a Richard Jefferies.

His detailed and loving descriptions of fishing are particularly good, and will be a joy to anyone who shares his passion. His defiant celebration of the act of killing fish and birds in quantities that far surpass his gastronomic capacity may lose him a few readers. But he makes quite clear that they are not the readers he would want. If you are looking for a Christmas present for a friend who shoots or fishes, then you need look no further than this book.

TOM KIDD

Distinguishing between the values of human and animal life: hunters in Scotland with their kill

But Catlow has another and deeper purpose, besides that of sharing his sporting pleasures. He is a pious Catholic, who believes in an absolute distinction between human and animal life. It is, in his view, not just wrong but in some way sinful to extend to animals the protection afforded to people, and to behave as though animals had some absolute right to life and liberty of the God-given kind that we enjoy. He is therefore deeply vexed by the new urban morality that seeks to forbid us from killing animals, or from taking pleasure in the warm pursuit of them.

I do not share Catlow's passion for shooting and fishing, although I find nothing strange in the fact that these activities should be the high point of someone's life, and the object of powerful religious feelings. I think he is right, and there is no sound moral reason for condemning most normal fieldsports. But I wonder how many opponents would be persuaded by his approach, depending as it does on religious and metaphysical convictions which are, for the mass of urban people, no longer available? Catlow himself has some difficulty in reconciling his tender feelings towards his dog with a philosophy that denies that a dog is capable of either understanding such feelings or returning them.

The issue is an important one, for two reasons. First, the life of our countryside — both wildlife and human life — is intimately bound up with the hunting of wild animals. Any attempt to forbid hunting will unravel centuries of careful management, and destroy both the social and the natural ecology of our landscape. Secondly, there are many people who either don't see this, or don't care about it, or who are so deeply opposed to killing (or at least to the killing of certain species in certain ways) that they are happy to encourage adverse legislation and to let the future look after itself.

The Labour Party expressly condones angling, an activity which Catlow's vivid descriptions show to involve intense and long-drawn-out suffering. But it promises, with characteristic inconsistency, "a free vote to ban hunting". This interesting piece of Newspeak presumably means a vote in which Labour MPs are free to vote according to their conscience, provided their conscience favours a ban. As someone who hunts, I *know*, as clearly as I know the axioms of Set Theory or the themes of the Beethoven symphonies, that hunting with hounds is the kindest way of controlling foxes, and the best way to achieve a *modus vivendi* with this endearing pest. I therefore regard with alarm the prospect of a Parliament whose members are as ignorant of this issue as they are of virtually everything else, pronouncing my sport to be a crime. For then I should be, for the first time in my life, obliged by my conscience to become a criminal.

Surely, however, the correct response to all this is not to fall back on a religious philosophy which few MPs believe in, but to protest against the dangers of legislation designed to impose majority attitudes on law-abiding minorities. Outside the lunatics of the animal rights movement, there are few British people who believe that the test of a crime should be the strength of the feeling opposed to it — especially when the opposition is based in ignorance and self-deception. Meanwhile, I sincerely hope that Catlow's thought-provoking book will awaken those who shoot and fish to the danger that they too will face, should intransigent sentimentality succeed in outlawing the sport of kings.

Enoch Powell analyses a biblical translation

The earth was welter and waste

GENESIS
Translation and
Commentary
By Robert Alter
Norton, £18.95
ISBN 0 393 03981 1

The professor of Hebrew and Comparative Literature at the University of California at Berkeley has published a fresh English translation of the Book of Genesis. It is primarily concerned to reproduce as far as possible the quality of the original Hebrew, the author having rejected the option of ignoring certain characteristics of biblical Hebrew in favour of modern English usage.

Biblical Hebrew presents an event as a sequence of separate items tied together with "and", whereas English style narrates by means of subordinate clauses. Alter believes that there is a positive gain in avoiding the self-contained compact sentences upon which English insists; and he displays the different effect of Hebrew's linked sentences connected by "and".

The English translator has to confront the repeated question whether the ubiquitous additive particle is to be represented at all in translating word-for-word a text which has no English affinity. There is no doubt that the normal English translation falsifies the impact of this survival from an older world and changes the tempo, style and construction of events to that extent. "Such a literary style is composed of very small elements as well as larger structural features: an English translator must confront the pesky question of whether the ubiquitous particle that means 'and' should be represented at all in translation." "The parallel syntax and the barrage of 'ands', far from being the reflex of a 'primitive' language, are as artfully effective in furthering the ends of the narrative as any device one could find in a sophisticated modern novelist."

Biblical Hebrew itself was a language in process of creation and the author claims to distinguish between the earlier and later parts of Genesis in a work which spans both the pre-exilic and the post-exilic periods. He even insists on reproducing a Hebrew pun, Adam, with Adama, "earth". "We cannot be free," Alter protests, "to translate a word here one way and there another; but neither can we insist upon reproducing a Hebrew pun and rendering Adam as 'soil'."

Perhaps after all we should rest content to treat the King James (Tyndale) Genesis as an event in its own right, for all its failure to represent perfectly the characteristics of the Hebrew original. It had its own effect upon the English language of its day — indeed, or the present day.

Alter's translation makes the book essentially a tool for better comprehension of the Hebrew, a function which is enhanced by the footnotes attached to the actual translation. Wherever the reader is likely to be confronted by a puzzle, he will generally find it interpreted in an explanatory footnote. In fact, the translation could be useful in its own right, apart from the light which it casts upon the difficulties, as an assistance in the process of translation itself.

I will leave the last word, however, to the translator: "Although Genesis looks forward to its sequel, it stands as a book, inviting our attention as an audience that follows the tale from beginning to end."

BRIDGEMAN

Adam and Eve Banished from Paradise by Masaccio (1401-28), in Florence

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Belief in a new kind of God

Nicholas Goodrick-Clarke

THE JUNG CULT
Origins of a
Charismatic
Movement
By Richard Noll
Fontana Press, £7.99
ISBN 0 00 686365 5

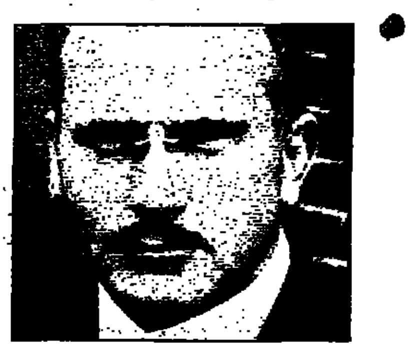
The quasi-religious character of Jungian psychoanalysis has long been recognised in contrast to the more empirical practice of clinical psychology. Richard Noll extends this view by relating Jung's early intellectual development to the neo-Romantic intellectual climate of German *fin-de-siècle* culture, when notions of decline and decadence were matched by calls for rebirth and renewal. During the period 1890-1933 Germany witnessed a variety of elite societies dedicated to this spiritual project. It is Noll's thesis that Jungian psychoanalysis represented such a movement within this counterculture.

A faltering belief in Christian orthodoxy found ready substitutes in spiritualism and modern occultism, chiefly represented by Theosophy. Noll documents Jung's involvement with spiritualism and his familiarity with Theosophical works, which were an important inspiration and source of his knowledge of Gnosticism, astrology and ancient Hellenic religions.

Jung borrowed the evolutionary biologist Ernst Haeckel's theory that the stages of individual development recapitulated the evolutionary theory of the unconscious: fantasies and dreams recorded the prehistoric and ancient religious experience of mankind. Armed with the literature of cults, in 1909 Jung set about excavating the unconscious of his patients in the light of ancient mystery religions, symbols and rituals.

Meanwhile he was receptive to other contemporary trends: these include the free love gospel of the Asconan anarchists and the Aryan myth, neopaganism and solar mysticism of the *volkisch* German nationalists. If Jung initially had regarded the eruption of these unconscious strata of the mind as a pathology, by 1916 he believed that the conscious mind could only be revitalised by cutting through the repressive Christian overlay of European civilisation to the archaic pre-Christian levels below.

Jung soon began to think of psychoanalysis as a new religious sect for the revival of Western culture with himself as its charismatic high priest. Following extensive study of the ancient Aryan-Mithraic cult, Jung had a vivid dream in late 1913 in which he was transformed into the lion-headed god called Aion. This direct experience of divine immanence, combined with Aryan solar mysticism, provided Jung with a model for a cult based on his own brand of analysis (ritual) and resultant individuation (initiation).



Jung: inspired by the occult

In a final part of the book Noll describes the successful growth of the Jungian movement into an international institution outside academe and the medical establishment consistent with this model. Given the towering stature of Jung as a holy man to present practitioners and devotees, they will mostly be astonished to learn of Jung's original inspiration in occultism and the *volkisch* movement at the turn of the century. However, Jung's popularity among New Age groups today provides an important clue to the origin of his ideas in a similar context a century ago.

Nicholas Goodrick-Clarke's The Occult Roots of Nazism *is published by I. B. Tauris, priced £12.95.*

Elusive faith

Claire Messud

THE GARDENS
OF LIGHT
By Amin Maalouf
Quartet, £15
ISBN 0 7043 7106 5

AMIN MAALOUF, who won the Prix Goncourt in 1993, weaves tapestries of intrigue that illuminate a broader historical moment. He typically takes as his focus an eminent life of the lost Arab world, such as Omar Khayyam or Leo Africanus. In *The Gardens of Light*, the eminence in question is Mani, founder and prophet of Manichaeism, a faith whose tenets have been all but lost, and whose heritage is but a derogatory adjective in our current vocabulary.

Mani lived in the 3rd century AD in Persia, in what was then the Sassanian Empire, a powerful Eastern dynasty often at war with the Romans. His is a world overlooked by Western history books, and Maalouf must conjure not only an alien society, but Mani's tortured place in it.

Maalouf, in his engaging prose, goes a considerable way towards restoring Mani to us. The novel traces his Parthian heritage; his miserable youth in the clutches of an all-male Christian cult; the nomadic beginnings of his ministry; and his complex relationship to the Sassanian rulers. It bears witness to his torture and death at the hands of those same leaders in AD 274.

What proves more elusive, however, is the substance of Mani's faith. He renounced all possessions, he promoted tolerance between religions and races, he was a pacifist, he advocated the beautiful. We learn that he took his prophecy from an inner voice that he called his "Twin". But somehow, Mani's doctrine fails to emerge in Maalouf's otherwise colourfully imagined account. As a result, Mani the man remains cloudy, his actions not entirely explicable and his grim fate only moderately affecting. Unsure of what Mani's teachings actually entailed, the contemporary reader cannot know what was lost with their eradication.

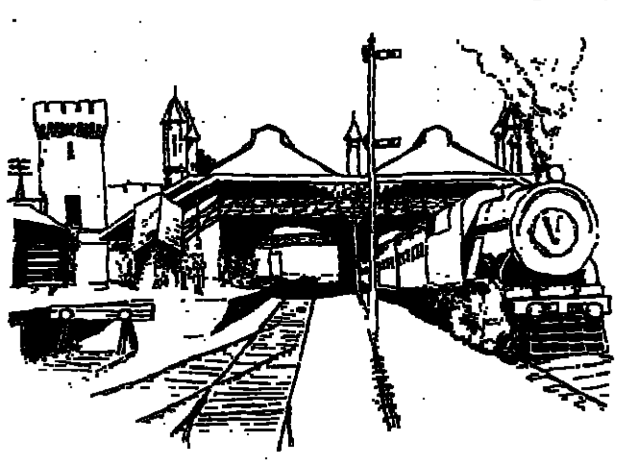
IN THIS respect, *The Gardens of Light* is somewhat disappointing: its omissions lie not in the external details of a foreign world — in this, Maalouf is as eloquent as ever — but in its spiritual core. It ought, perhaps, to be enough to know that Mani was silenced for propounding a compassionate vision; but that is a tragedy so common in man's history that one needs, in the end, to know more.

If you can find a novel's truth

There is a trainspotter quality to Peter Hopkirk's *Quest For Kim: In Search of Kipling's Great Game* (John Murray, £15.99; ISBN 0 7195 5560 4) — charming or a bit Pooterish, according to taste. Having completed his well-received quintet of volumes on the Great Game, the typically public schoolboy expression for the mainly Victorian struggle for power in Central Asia, Peter Hopkirk, a distinguished former foreign correspondent on this newspaper, has discarded his quasi-academic gown, dusted down his *dhoti*, and taken to his *gharri* in search of the characters and places which inhabit Rudyard Kipling's wonderfully evocative novel, *Kim*.

Hopkirk's fascination with the Orient began when, as a lad himself, he first read this tale of the Anglo-Indian urchin who combines recruitment into the Great Game with devotion to a Tibetan lama. Kipling skilfully plays these two separate paths against each other, but cannot avoid having his young hero opt for his dutiful career, his sahib's destiny. Perhaps if he had completed *Kim* before 1900, the outcome might have been different. By then Kipling had been a decade away from India and was well into his imperialist phase.

That very year he spent time in South Africa, working on the Bloemfontein newspaper *The Friend*, promoting the British war effort against the Boers. But he retained enough affection for India to describe its rich culture, with its energy and vivid colour. As a result, even Edward Said, in his indefatigable watch for the heinous sin of Orientalism, admits that — in this case, at least — Kipling failed to bend his aesthetic vision to any overt political agenda.



Lahore Station by Janina Slater, from *Quest for Kim*

Hopkirk is not too concerned with such airy debates, it is true. His object is to follow Kim's itinerary — from Lahore to Varanasi and up into the Himalayas — while, from his own historical knowledge, he matches the book's characters to known individuals.

His boyish enthusiasm carries his quest along. "Kim's gun", Zam-Zammah, at the start of the novel, has often been identified as standing in front of the Lahore Museum, or "Wonder House". But, armed with Murray's *Handbook of the Punjab*, published in 1883 and now rare, Hopkirk discovers what has escaped Kipling biographers, including Charles Carrington and Angus Wilson — that, in Kipling's day, when his father John was curator, the museum itself was located elsewhere.

So Hopkirk proceeds through the book's locations — Mahbub Ali's horse bazaar (never quite pinned down), Lahore railway station and the "te-rain", Kim's St Xavier in Partibus, identified as La Martinière College in Lucknow, the only school in the British Empire to have won battle honours (for its pupils' role in the 1857 Mutiny), and so on.

With *Kim*'s characters, Hopkirk is in his element. Thus Colonel Creighton, the *pukka* spy chief who recruits Kim into the Great Game, is based on Colonel Thomas Montgomerie, who ran the Survey of India. Mahbub Ali existed in real life, and Lurgan Sahib, the mysterious Simla shop-keeper, is authenticated as A. M. Jacob, who sold the 184.5 carat Victoria diamond, which is now valued at £250 million, to the Nizam of Hyderabad.

It pays, of course, to know the original book. But then many people clearly do. As Hopkirk tells us in one of his many illuminating asides, *Kim* still sells 1,000 copies a week in various editions. Occasionally old-fashioned, never dull, *Quest for Kim* — with its choice illustrations by Janina Slater — is a Murray guide to rank among the best.

ANDREW LYCETT

Philip Howard on the survival of the stories that more than bear retelling

Made by nothing stronger than necessity

This book describes in lurid detail double infanticide by a mother with combat knife, serial murder by combustible poison, allegations of rape by a stepmother, an *X-Files* death from the sea through battery by wild horses, and resurrection from the dead. In other words, this sounds like an everyday story of television listings before the 9 o'clock watershed. But it is better than that. And it is worth asking why these primitive tragedies still fascinate us in our different worlds 25 centuries later.

For they scream across 3,000 years. A week seldom passes without a performance of one of them in Greek or English, in the National Theatre or a school hall. Derek Walcott won the Nobel Prize for Literature for *Omeros*, his recasting of the Homeric legends in Caribbean dress. By this golden jubilee year, the first Penguin Classic, *The Odyssey* translated by E. V. Rieu, has overtaken *Lady Chatterley's Lover* as Penguin's biggest best-seller.

How can this be? How can Euripides live in the age of *EastEnders*? Well, one reason is the huge growth in the study of Classics in translation that has accompanied the decline of compulsory Greek and Latin language in schools and universities. Another reason is the revival of interest by non-academic amateurs in their heritage. But the main reason is that these tragedies actually are very good, in spite of the fact that people have been saying they are very good for so many centuries. Anybody knows that who has lately seen Derek Jacobi play Oedipus or Diana Rigg as Medea.

ALCESTIS
And Other Plays
By Euripides
Translated by John Davie
Introduction and notes
by Richard Rutherford
Penguin Classics, £6.99
ISBN 1 35 79 10 86 42

The plays deal with basic instincts. And Euripides, although described as a misogynist by contemporaries, was a proto-feminist. He wrote the best women's parts for the theatre before Racine, though on his stage they were played by men in masks and high heels. If Shakespeare had known more Greek, I would have suspected that he had read the *Hippolytus* before writing the Nurse in *Romeo and Juliet*. Phaedra's Nurse is the same sex-obsessed old gossip who helps to trigger tragedy.

This year's new translations of the *Medea*, *Hippolytus*, *Alcestis* and *The Children of Heracles* replace the 1953 Penguin Classic for two of the plays. They incorporate the latest scholarship, such as W. S. Barrett's majestic edition of the *Hippolytus* (OUP, £25). The book's selections of text and meaning are state-of-the-art scholarly, which is not surprising since the translator is Head of Classics at St Paul's School.

The notes are psychologically shrewd: once she has confessed her guilty love, Phaedra can speak more freely and with more self-control. This translation is into clear but old-fashioned prose, where its predecessor was into blank verse and other verse for the chorus. For example, in the *Medea* the Chorus guess that Medea is about to slaughter her children, and burst into a hymn about the griefs of mothers. John Davie's translation renders its opening: "Many times ere now I have entertained thoughts more subtle and engaged in arguments more weighty than the female sex should pursue." As an exercise in (old-fashioned) construe, mark this alpha plus. But to stage the *Medea*, you should use one of the less accurate but more natural translations such as the one played by the Actors of Dionysus.

Other Penguin Classics in their jubilee year include Aristotle's *Poetics*, the first work of tragic criticism, which attacks the *Medea* for its arbitrary resolution by divine intervention. You can read in English Appian's history of *The Civil Wars*, the fiery furnace that turned Rome from hic-haec-hocsville into a world empire. His pretty, witty version of the *Iliad* into rhyming iambic pentameter made Pope's fortune. And the new sub-set of Penguin Classics of classic authors in translation has started with promising volumes of Homer, Virgil, Horace and Martial. Homer, edited by George Steiner, gives an eclectic run of versions from Chaucer and Shakespeare to Christopher Logue and Oliver Taplin; from Anglo-Norman to 20th-century planetary English.

Translation is an art that mixes poetry with history and scholarship. It still burns brighter in the many voices of English than anywhere else. For proof, see *Collected Translations* by C. H. Sisson (Carcanet, £14.95). Sisson is the choice and master poet-translator of this generation. His versions of Horace's *Ars Poetica*, Paul Valéry and Heine are poems in their own right, as well as postern gates into the magic garden of European literature.

MARY EVANS

Was Euripides a misogynist — or a proto-feminist? Early illustration of Medea in a 19th-century reproduction

Niceness is not enough

When did it all go wrong? Most of us have an answer, implicit or explicit, that colours everything else. Chesterton and Belloc lamented the Reformation. One sort of English Marxist despaired at the Restoration of 1660, the nemesis of 1640s antinomianism; another sort bewailed the 1780s, the immiseration of the working class in the Industrial Revolution. Conservatives sometimes let slip heretical views about 1832, seen as the beginning of a slippery democratic slope.

The 20th century, of course, has been lived in the long shadow of 1917; and as we emerge from that experience, our perspective on our past subtley shifts too. More and more, we are forced to confront the consequences — non-negotiable, irreversible, protean — of 1776.

The English traditionally avoided thinking seriously about their greatest deceit by blaming individuals: the admirals and generals (indecisive); George III (rigid); and, above all, the Prime Minister. Yet what was there to say against Lord North? He had no obvious vices. He was modest, industrious, managerial. He had very considerable political skills, and powers of survival equal to the Younger Pitt or Lord Liverpool. He had no doctrine or design to impose on his age at any cost. So historians typically ignored him: Lord North, not Bonar Law, became "the Unknown Prime Minister".

Whiteley's scholarly rehabilitation presents him as a spokesman for a pragmatic culture that put prosperity first. North echoed the preoccupations of his class: patronage, wealth, worldly success, and those elaborate formulae for soothing ruffled feathers summed up as "politeness".

Jonathan Clark

LORD NORTH
The Prime Minister
Who Lost America
By Peter Whiteley
Hambledon Press, £25
ISBN 1 85285 145 7

These leading figures produced a distinctive political world, preoccupied with the Court and the House of Commons, regarding public opinion as an unwelcome intrusion, and treating major issues of public principle as problems to be managed.

Whiteley's North was not driven by ambition or avarice. His reputation as "an extreme conservative" was unjustified, and derived from the mud randomly thrown in the Wilkes affair. "Let America look to Britain as a kind of parent and friend" was his policy on the colonies. So why did it all go wrong?

This, the best book on North to date, shows us a politician with negative virtues: his need to consult everyone; "his tendency to concentrate on detail rather than the overall picture". He was, says Whiteley, "inflexible when compromise might still have been possible and accommodating when it was too late".

Yet perhaps detailed and strategic remedies were equally vain: no smooth words at Westminster, no clever footwork in Downing Street, could have prevented the American volcano from erupting. Historians now see how much more there was to that revolution than reactions to innovations in British policy. Against these mounting pressures, niceness was not enough.

There are, of course, no modern parallels to this story. Never again will things go disastrously wrong in our foreign policy. Decent, honourable prime ministers will never again be overwhelmed by the proliferating consequences of a drive to create a federal union out of a collection of independent states. We are lucky to live in modern times, in which history does not repeat itself.

Inventiveness at a premium

FOR ME, the book of the year was always going to be T.S. Eliot's unpublished early poems, *Inventions of the March Hare* (Faber, £30). The invention is that of the style and forms of the *Prufrock* and 1920 poems. The annotation by Christopher Ricks is denser than that to any other poetry, including Shakespeare. Such a mass of sources invites incredulity — could anyone have so much in mind? — and yet all but one or two of them, individually considered, are convincing and illuminating.

Sadly, many commentators were more interested in the old and marginal argument about whether Eliot was anti-Semitic — raked over by Anthony Julius in his book *T.S. Eliot: Anti-Semitism and Literary Form* (Cambridge, £30) — than in reading his poems.

Christopher Ricks also published the best literary criticism of the year with *Essays in Appreciation* (Oxford, £25). No one reads better.

SEBASTIAN CARTER, of the Rampant Lions press, was born in 1941 on the day that *Burnt Norton*, the first of Eliot's *Four Quartets*, appeared as a pamphlet. That booklet was smaller than even the prospectus for Carter's large quarto edition of the *Quartets*, which could hardly be further removed from the days of war-economy stringencies.

Issued in parts, the *Quartets* were avidly read during the war, as bulletins about the culture people were fighting to preserve. Eliot, by then an intellectual beacon, abandoned the obscurantism of *The Waste Land*, and set down his exploration of spiritual riddles as clearly as he could. Like the concerts at the National Gallery, this was demanding art for a large audience. At a shilling each, the *Quartets* were popular and often reprinted.

Carter's edition has been hand-set on expansive pages of heavy mould-made paper. Part-titles are printed with colours suggestive of the *Quartets'* (rather tenuous) relationship to the four elements, and the boards are covered with a paste-paper harmonising these tones.

The only previous fine press edition of the poem, printed in Verona in 1960, was unluckily set from a reprint in which five lines were misplaced. Here, Carter has taken great care to avoid awkward line and page breaks, and the text is beautifully disposed. But by setting it in such large type (18-point), he makes of the poem a monument rather than a meditation. The Rampant Lions edition is limited to 226 copies, price £195 (tel: 01954 231003).

BIBLIOMANE

EVEN IF you don't buy a book of poems from one decade to the next, try Christopher Reid's *Expanded Universes* (Faber, £6.99) — full of whimsy, wiles and trills. *Two Dogs Barking on a Pub Roof*:

You're David and Goliath, Peter and the Wolf,
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and the whole cycle of birth, breath,
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Sect that survived despite offending the pagans

Karen Armstrong is enlightened by a fresh look at an enduring faith

One of the most extraordinary claims in the history of religion must surely have been that made by a group of Jews who declared that a man who had been executed as a common criminal in an obscure province of the Roman Empire had, in some sense, been divine. Since this notion was not only considered blasphemous by the vast majority of their fellow Jews but regarded by most educated pagans as deeply offensive, nobody would have expected this despised sect to last very long.

Yet Christianity not only survived but became a major world religion. Vivian Green has now attempted a new interpretation of its 2,000 year history. Despite its title, Green provides us with a solid, efficient and dispassionate overview of the Christian story which should become a valuable work of reference.

Green is an impartial chronicler and he does not spare the churches, assessing their failures as well as their triumphs. He traces the development of Christianity from its Jewish beginnings to its current struggles with modernity honestly and without confessional bias.

Green gives his readers sufficient but not excessive detail, and thus enables them to make a valid assessment of the complexities of Christian history. In the process, he shows the resilience of the faith, which, despite its present problems, seems set to survive well into its third millennium.

Green's narrative concentrates on the more external aspects of Christian history: his chief interest is to chart the Church's development as a power structure and he does this well. What the book lacks is a sufficiently compelling explanation of Christianity's extraordinary appeal. Each of the great faiths has its own particular genius, which influences its development quite as much as the policies of its leaders and the institutions which Green describes so ably.

A NEW HISTORY
OF CHRISTIANITY
By Vivian Green
Alan Sutton, £20
ISBN 0 7509 1271 5

Thus there is little discussion of the nature of Christian spirituality. Green, for example, explains the growth of monasticism as springing from a desire to forsake the world. He does not dwell in nearly enough depth on the contemplative pursuit of the sacred, which is experienced by men and women in all cultures as so compulsive that most of the major faiths have had to accommodate it.

Similarly Green does not explain the underlying spiritual reasons for the theological struggles which have been such a marked feature of Christian history. As a result, they appear as rather meaningless squabbles, instead of expressing — in a way quite peculiar to Christianity — the extreme difficulty of speaking and thinking about our experience of the divine. We do not, therefore, in Green's account, really understand the reasons for the Eastern churches' rejection of the Council of Chalcedon, for the controversy in Greek Orthodoxy about the validity of icons, nor do we see why the Eastern and Western churches were in such fierce and passionate dispute about the *filioque* clause in the Creed.

Green also falls into the trap of regarding Christianity as an essentially Western faith. Once Christianity has been established in Europe, he implies that the Eastern churches are little more than a sideshow; whereas there is a good case for arguing that, at least until the 12th century, it was the other way around. Indeed, this myopia about other traditions has been one of the greatest flaws of Western Christianity. This failing, together with the Western tendency to emphasise external matters of dogma and discipline more than spirituality, can also be seen as major causes of Christianity's difficulties in today's pluralistic world.

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Detail of Giotto's *Nativity* in the Scrovegni Chapel, Padua

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Marianne Wiggins on Jeanette Winterson's *Gut Symmetries*
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[illegible]

هكذا في الأصل

Saved from the bump

By Harvey Elliott

A YOUNG family this week became the latest victims of holiday "bumping" — the hated practice normally associated with scheduled airlines — when the owner of their Christmas holiday apartment in Lanzarote overbooked his properties by 20 per cent.

Lisa Snow, her husband Tony and their two children aged four and 18 months booked the self-catering holiday in June and paid the £969.41 cost of the one-week break in full in September.

But a phone call "out of the blue" from their travel agent told them that the accommodation had been let instead to tourists from another country and they would not be able to fly from Gatwick on Boxing Day as planned.

"We were absolutely devastated," said Mrs Snow, from Banstead in Surrey. "My husband could only take that one week between Christmas and new year as holiday and we specifically chose the flights and the self-catering apartment to fit in with that."

The Snows were told by their local branch of Thomas Cook, through whom they had booked the holiday, that tour operator Unijet had "fallen out" with the local hotelier and that the accommodation was no longer available.

Instead they were offered the return flights plus £30 a head to cover the cost of accommodation, or the option of paying nearly £1,000 extra to upgrade to a hotel.

"To do that to us just ten days before we were due to travel is outrageous," said Mr Snow.

"Unfortunately, it seemed that Unijet just weren't interested in our problems and only wanted to palm us off with the £30."

But Nigel Jenkins, Unijet group director, said that like many other British tour operators, his company had been the victim of "nasty hoteliers" and that legal action was now being considered.

"Early in the booking season hoteliers, especially in the Canaries, tend to overbook their rooms just as scheduled airlines do with their seats," said Mr Jenkins. "They know that many months in advance one country or another will have a particular problem and people will drop out.

"So when a hotelier with 100 rooms to let sells 30 to each of four operators, he is going to be overbooked by 20 per cent unless people drop out. And this time no one did.

"But it is a dreadful time of the year to do it to anyone and we can only apologise to Mr and Mrs Snow."

In earlier years no one would have been aware of the problem and the tour operator and travel agency between them would have found a solution.

New European legislation, however, means that immediately there is any hint of a problem, the client must be told.

Hours after speaking to Travel News, the Snows were called again by Thomas Cook to say that Unijet had found them accommodation in the luxury four-star Princess Hotel almost next door to their original apartment in Playa Blanca. And, as it was Christmas, Unijet decided also to deduct £100 per person from the final bill.

The post-Christmas holiday will now go ahead, with the Snows paying even less than they would have done for the self-catering accommodation they originally booked.

"We are really pleased," said Mr Snow. "But it should not have happened in the first place and something must be done to stop it from happening to others in the future."

TONY WHITE

A winter holiday in Lanzarote after all: Lisa Snow with children Hayley and Shaun

US holds up compensation

By Tony Dawe

DESPITE a deal by European transport ministers, most airline passengers cannot buckle their seatbelts knowing that they or their families will be compensated adequately should the plane crash.

British Airways this week announced plans to offer improved compensation after the deal, but passengers on many other airlines remain bound by the 67-year-old Warsaw Convention, which set compensation limits at £14,000.

Efforts to reach a worldwide agreement to waive the limits are being hampered by the United States Government, which insists that its citizens should receive the highest possible payouts, and by Third World countries which are fearful that their airlines might be bankrupted by huge claims.

"Passengers on most airlines are still left with the Warsaw limits and their only hope of securing larger sums is if they can prove negligence," said Tim Goodyear, the International Air Transport Association spokesman.

IATA agreed in October last year to lift the limits and suggested that appropriate damages might depend on where the victim lived. The US Department of Transportation has insisted, however, that any airline flying to or through America must be ordered to recompense American victims according to US law. As efforts continue to end the international impasse, European ministers have agreed to raise compensation limits for passengers flying on European airlines.

British Airways has said it will offer passengers unlimited liability should they be involved in accidents anywhere in the world — apart from flights to and from the United States, because of the continuing legal wrangles there. If the airline can prove that it has done everything within its power to prevent the accident, a limit of £80,000 will apply.

"The decision sweeps away the passenger liability limit which has remained intact for almost 70 years, and will offer passengers significant extra protection in the unlikely event of an accident," said Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive.

More ships needed as cruises keep booming

By Harvey Elliott

FIVE new ships are to be pressed into service to meet the increasing demand for Britain's biggest holiday success story — cruising.

An estimated 420,000 British holidaymakers took a cruise in 1996 — up 20 per cent for the second year in succession. And there is no sign of the phenomenal rate of growth in demand for holidays afloat slacking in 1997, from low-cost package deals in the Mediterranean to luxury cruises to faraway destinations.

Thomson, the package tour operator, this week revealed details of plans to charter two liners; its rival, Airtours, is taking delivery of its second ship aimed at cut-price family cruises, and both the Fred Olsen Line and Saga, the over-50s specialist tour operator, are to begin operations with a new ship during 1997.

The biggest and most luxurious to join in the rush is P&O's 63,524-ton *Arcadia*, with passengers paying up to £38,380 a head for a 92-day world tour.

The *Arcadia* will replace the *Canberra*, the 37-year-old former troop ship, which will soon be in breach of tough new safety regulations. The ship, now owned by P&O's US-based sister company, Princess Cruises, is already sailing from America to the Caribbean as *Star Princess* and will be renamed *Arcadia* when it has completed a £10 million refit to remove all vestiges of "Americanese" and replace them with obvious British characteristics.

Among the changes will be the creation of an on-board pub to be called The Oval which will be filled with cricketing memorabilia, much of it brought over from the *Canberra*. "Many of our passengers feel very much at home in *Canberra*," Gwyn Hughes, managing director of P&O Cruises, said. "We want them to feel that the *Canberra* family is simply moving home."

Thomson shook the normally staid cruise market with plans to lease the *Island Breeze* and the *Emerald* complete with crews from America and offer cruises in the same way that it now packages land-based holidays. Prices will start at £399 for adults and £99 for children for one week on board and almost all the customers — 63 per cent first-time cruisers — are expected to combine this with a week at a resort on dry land. The two ships will join a third, the *Sapphire*, which is already sailing for Thomson.

"Within a few years I expect that the industry will be dominated by ships chartered by tour operators," Steve Garley, Thomson's commercial director, said.

Cruise companies are making healthy profits as demand rises and costs fall. The fuel bill for *Arcadia* is half that of *Canberra*, although both carry about 1,600 passengers. Yet the average price of sailing in *Arcadia* will be about 20 per cent higher than in *Canberra*.

Thomson has paid a lump-sum charter fee to the ships' owners and then calculated a price based on selling every cabin in the same way that it can cut air fares by filling every seat on a charter flight.

There are now 30 new cruise ships on order around the world for delivery by the end of the century.

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[illegible]

CHRISTMAS cottages are still available from Rural Retreats. A five-night stay in a home for four, decorated for the season, in Herefordshire costs £471. Details: 01386 701177.

■ FASHIONABLE Val d'Isère in the French Alps for a week for £199 a person with a flight from Gatwick tomorrow and half-board hotel accommodation is among the late offers available from First Choice Ski. Details: 0990 557755.

■ CROSS-COUNTRY skiing based in the "cuckoo clock" village of Kandersteg, Switzerland, is available for £519 a person for a week from December 28, including half-board and ferry crossing, from Headwater Holidays. Flight packages cost an extra £240. Details: 01606 48699.

■ CYCLING tours with See South Africa start in February. Guided trips through the eastern Transvaal and Cape province cost from £515 a week, £995 for two weeks. Flights to the republic are extra. Details: 0181-395 6060.

■ THE Algarve for a fortnight for £179 a person on a Cosmos self-catering holiday, with a flight from Gatwick on December 28 is among late offers from Lunn Poly. Details from the company's Holiday Shops.

■ ABSEILING, canoeing and hillwalking are available during new year breaks at YHA centres. Four nights full board at Edale in the Peak District from December 29 costs £158, three nights at Llangollen from December 30, £119. Details: 01978 860330.

■ WEST country cottages are still available over the new year from Farm and Cottage Holidays with a week from December 28 costing £225 in a home for four. Details: 01237 479698.

■ CRUISE the Caribbean from £695 a person aboard the *Costa Classica*, with a flight to Guadeloupe on January 11 and eight nights' full board. Details from The Cruise Network 01772 727222.

[illegible]

DISCOUNTS of up to 50 per cent off published room rates are available from Forte hotels at 90 of its Le Meridien and Grand hotels around the world. The Winter Passport offer lasts until March 31 and covers bookings for two nights or more. Details: 0345 404040.

■ A TWO-NIGHT new year package at the Telford Moat House in Shropshire offers unlimited use of the hotel's leisure facilities, including pool and golf course. The cost is £175 per person. Details: 01952 429977.

■ BLACKWELL Grange, a country house hotel near Darlington, offers a four-course dinner and a piper at midnight for its new year package. The cost is £125 per person and includes New Year's Day brunch. Details: 01325 509955.

■ BACON and eggs in the early hours of New Year's Day is included in a package offered by the Maid's Head Hotel in Norwich, an old coaching inn. The price is £90 per person. Details: 01603 209955.

■ NEW YEAR accommodation in London is available from Highlife Breaks, ranging from £52 per person per night at the Grosvenor Hotel, Victoria. Details: 0800 700 400.

■ INSIGNIA Hotels has launched a new "ski the Alps" brochure, offering three and six-night packages at five luxury alpine resort hotels until April 12. Details: 0990 300 232.

■ MOLLINGTON Banastre Hotel in Chester is already thinking about St Valentine's Day with a special offer including a dinner dance, accommodation and a bottle of champagne for £65 per person. Details: 01244 851471.

■ A DOZEN red roses and champagne is the Valentine offer from L'Horizon Hotel in Jersey. A two-night break costs £249 per person and includes flights from Gatwick or Southampton, hire car, accommodation and a Valentine's Ball. Details: 01534 43101.

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BRITTANY Ferries has launched new holiday homes and camping brochures for 1997. Prices range from £168 and £195 a week respectively for a family of four. Standard return prices on four routes to France start at £140 for a car and driver. Details: 0990 360360.

■ LE SHUTTLE has a limited service and is not expected to offer any promotional fares for some time. Day-trips cost from £59, a five-day ticket £69 and standard returns £129. Reservations must be made. Details: 0990 353535. And today is the last day for cheap pre-Christmas day-trips on Eurostar. Prices start at £49 for travel from Waterloo or Ashford to Lille, Calais, Paris and Brussels. Details: 0345 303030.

■ VISITORS to Ireland can save more than £100 on Swansea Cork Ferries by travelling on Thursday or Friday, returning on Monday within specified time bands. The return fare is £139 for a car and five passengers. Details: 01792 456116.

■ HOVERSPEED has a ski/ferry package from £99 for ten days' cover (£109 for 17 days) for a car and two adults. The package includes crossing, sports insurance and RAC motoring assistance. Details: 0990 240241.

■ SALLY Ferries has a £30 three-day return available until December 31 for a car and up to five passengers from Ramsgate to Dunkirk or Ostend. Contact Eurodrive: 0181-324 4000.

[illegible]

FROM next month it will be easier to reach Aalborg, in Jutland, Denmark, with the new Maersk Air direct service. Fares are lower, too. These range from £414 for business class down to £155 for a super saver excursion. Details: 0171-333 0066.

■ TRANSATLANTIC fares tumble after the new year. Deals available between January and March from airline network include a £163 plus £36 tax offer to New York Newark, flying Virgin Atlantic. In addition there's a £256 fare plus £26 tax flying TWA to numerous destinations in California, Texas, Arizona and Colorado. Details: 01772 727272.

■ BETWEEN December 26 and January 1 Air UK has a £59 Santa fare to Amsterdam, Brussels or Paris. Details: 0345 666777

■ FROM January Sabena agent Citibond is charging fares of £615 to Macau (an alternative gateway for Hong Kong), and Johannesburg at £550. Details: 0171-408 1535.

■ MAJOR Travel is charging £116 for return flights with Swiss Air or Cross Air to Zurich from Heathrow or London City Airport. The offer is available between January and March. Details: 0171-485 7017.

■ BRITISH Airways has extended its domestic super saver fares until March. Return prices from London include Belfast for £74, Edinburgh and Newcastle for £75. Details 0345 222111.

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RACING TRIUMPH HURDLE FAVOURITE HAS STRESS FRACTURE

Bellator ruled out for season by leg injury

By Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent

BELLATOR, the leading juvenile hurdler, has been ruled out for the rest of the season because of a leg injury. The Toby Balding-trained three-year-old stamped himself as 8-1 ante-post favourite for the Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham next March, but the Weyhill trainer said last night: "Bellator has suffered a stress fracture of the near-fore cannon bone. It is mendable, but he is out for the season."

Bellator, a winning stayer on the Flat, created a favourable impression with easy wins at Wetherby and Aintree, on the latter occasion beating Noble Lord by 15 lengths.

The poor record of last season's Cheltenham Festival winners continued yesterday when Nahthen Lad, winner of the Sun Alliance Chase in March, beat only one horse home on his seasonal reappearance — just over a week before he is due to line up for the Pertemps King George VI Chase at Kempton.

Only three horses who were successful at last season's festival — Urubande, Trainglot and Challenger Du Luc — have returned to the winner's enclosure this term, while the list of Cheltenham horses to have fallen by the wayside through injury or defeat grows longer by the day.

Nahthen Lad, who was giving weight away to most of his rivals in the Astbury Wren Handicap Hurdle at Bangor, travelled well for much of the race but weakened quickly three flights out.

However, Jenny Pitman was far from despondent last night and hopes the talented second-season chaser will line up for Boxing Day's feature race. "If he is all right in the morning, then it will be Kempton," she said.

"I have had horses with a great deal less ability than Nahthen Lad jump to the front upsides in the King George and I think the race will be run to suit him. I would certainly like him to go there. Where else can you go?"

She reasoned: "Run him in handicaps and he gets murdered. He's won on a flat track before over distances short of his best and he is a chaser now. Yesterday, Rough Quest won a hurdle in novice company. Mine was in a handicap giving away lumps of weight."

Reflecting on Nahthen Lad's run yesterday, she added: "I thought he travelled well until turning for home when he got tired, which he was entitled to do because it was a long time since he ran. He had an abortive seven-hour round trip to Haydock on Saturday [when the meeting was cancelled because of frost] and, as a result, missed a serious bit of work on Sunday."

Mrs Pitman said: "It is heartbreaking they could not run the Haydock race [the Tommy Whittle Chase] last Sunday. The bookmakers say it is difficult to get staff in on Sundays at short notice but when the meeting was abandonded at 11am on Saturday that is hardly an excuse."

William Hill left Nahthen Lad unchanged on 16-1, but reported support for Rough Quest, who has also had his Cheltenham Gold Cup odds cut from 12-1 to 9-1. The King George betting is 6-4 on One Man, 4-1 (from 5-1) Rough Quest, 5-1 Sound Man, 10-1 Barton Bank, 12-1 Strong Promise, Trying Again and *Mr Mulligan.*

The lure of Cheltenham in March remains as strong as ever and two trainers at Bangor were more than happy to pencil in runners for the three-day meeting.

David Gandolfo declared Around The Gale a definite Cheltenham horse who would probably be aimed at the Cathcart after the five-year-old won the St Helens Ford Novices' Chase with ease. The fine success of Freddie Muck in Nahthen Lad's race had Nigel Twiston-Davies thinking in terms of the Gold Card Final.

[illegible]

Nap: RIVER MANDATE
(3.10 Towcester)

Next best: Jacob's Wife
(2.10 Towcester)

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Edgemoor Prince and Maguire jump the last on their way to victory at a mist-shrouded Exeter yesterday

TOWCESTER

THUNDERER

12.40 Kashan
1.10 Whattabob
1.40 Roberty Lea
2.10 Beatson
2.40 HOH WARRIOR (nap)
3.10 River Mandate
3.40 Princeful

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.40 HOH WARRIOR.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 .... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

12.40 TURKEY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,094: 2m) (15 runners)

101 0P061 SIR PAGEANT 28 (B,G,S) (Dirty Dozen) K Bridgwater 7-11-10 .... D Bridgwater 98
102 5R00-P0 CAPTAIN TANDY 13 (CD,F,S) (D Sims) C Smith 7-11-9 .... P McLoughlin —
103 0023-04 SHARMOOR 20 (T Heseltine) Miss L Siddall 4-11-5 .... A Thornton 97
104 3/4-0650 SAYMORE 37 (D,F,G,S) (P Morris) W Clay 10-11-5 .... S Wynne 90
105 3P/04-0P BANKONIT 13 (B,D,S) (D Davies) D Davies 8-11-4 .... J Lawrence 91
106 P62 LANESRA BREEZE 15 (J Wise) T Naughton 4-11-2 .... C Maude 88
107 1544/P0 BILL AND WIN 87 (V,D,S) (S Pickering) T Wall 5-11-1 .... R Massey (5) —
108 500P- WICKENS ONE 255 (M Clarke) D Geraghty 6-11-0 .... N Williamson 98
109 /2440 ANTIGUAN FLYER 50 (D,G) (G Prodromou) G Prodromou 7-10-13 .... R Farrant 93
110 P68PP-2 AMBIDEXTROUS 12 (Mrs C McPhail) E Alston 4-10-12 .... L Cummins (7) 90
111 0-00 POLO PONY 26 (T Pallis) J Upson 4-10-11 .... G Supple (7) —
112 0/P0P-2 KASHAN 32 (D,G) (Miss E Wright) P Hayward 8-10-9 .... B Fenton [illegible]
113 3-00602 SLIGHTLY SPECIAL 9 (R Nash) B Pearce 4-10-4 .... T J Murphy 94
114 60F-604 RUTH'S GAMBLE 7 (V,D,G) (Mrs A Emanuel) Mrs L Jewell 8-10-2 .... D Leahy 85
115 00P-P COTTAGE JOKER 12 (W Bethell) W Bethell 6-10-0 .... A Maguire —

Long handicap: Cottage Joker 9-10.

BETTING: 7-2 Sir Pageant, 5-1 Lanesra Breeze, 6-1 Ambidextrous, 7-1 Kashan, 8-1 Sharmoor, 10-1 Slightly Special, 12-1 others.

1995: HAWTHORNE GLEN 8-10-5 B Fenton (13-2) Mrs M Long 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

SIR PAGEANT beat Bright Sapphire 2l in handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m 3f, good). Earlier 11l 6th of 14 in handicap hurdle at Ludlow (2m, good to firm) with SAYMORE (12lb better off) further 4l 10th and BILL AND WIN tailed off 13th. SHARMOOR 13l 4th of 16 to Willy Star in selling hurdle at Bangor (2m 1f, good to soft). KASHAN 1l 2nd of 15 to Sprintfayre in handicap hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f, good to soft) with RUTH'S GAMBLE a distance 8th. AMBIDEXTROUS 6l 2nd of 9 to Sprintfayre in handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m, good to soft).
Selection: KASHAN

1.10 HOLLY NOVICES CHASE
(£4,060: 2m 6f) (16 runners)

201 0002-12 LIVELY KNIGHT 13 (G) (A Weller) J Gifford 7-11-5 .... P Hide [illegible]
202 252/10P- BUCKET OF GOLD 300 (S) (Mrs F McInnes Skinner) O Brennan 6-10-12 M Brennan —
203 54UF4U- CHIAPPUCCI 268 (G,S) (Mrs E Heath) Mrs E Heath 6-10-12 .... A Thornton 78
204 1129- FURRY FOX 206P (F,G) (Fair Play Racing) R Curtis 8-10-12 .... D Morris —
205 1/5PP-3 GORDON 22 (S) (Mrs C Pitt) P Webber 5-10-12 .... J Osborne 88
206 /16F5/0- HALKOPOUS 280 (F,G,S) (Miss V Williams) Miss V Williams 10-10-12 N Williamson —
207 28425/1- HUGE MISTAKE 458 (G) (Windrush Racing) N Twiston-Davies 7-10-12 C Llewellyn —
208 222/033- IVY BOY 250 (Glenfoca Partnership) C Mann 6-10-12 .... J Railton —
209 03121-3 RAMALLAH 21 (G,S) (Maidens Green Partnership) Miss H Knight 7-10-12 B Fenton 78
210 65121/P- SAINT KEYNE 308 (F) (Berkshire Components) O Williams 6-10-12 .... P Holley —
211 0P1P00- SEE ENOUGH 266 (S) (J Meaden) R Buckler 8-10-12 .... D Bridgwater —
212 3-2 SLIDEOFHILL 9 (Miss J Bellamy) J J O'Neill 7-10-12 .... C O'Dwyer 76
213 331-06 STROKESAVER 12 (F) (Bow Lane Partners) C Brooks 6-10-12 .... G Bradley —
214 0/06/ VOLLEYBALL 751 (Mrs M Tufnell) P Hedger 7-10-12 .... M Richards —
215 221302- WHATTABOB 243 (F,S) (Mrs M Turner) N Henderson 7-10-12 .... M A Fitzgerald —
216 2/0-3U22 BRIDEPARK ROSE 8 (S) (T Segrue) P Richens 8-10-7 .... S Fox 72

BETTING: 9-4 Lively Knight, 100-30 Whattabob, 6-1 Halkopous, 8-1 See Enough, 10-1 Slideofhill, 11-1 Huge Mistake, 12-1 Ramallah, 14-1 others.

1995: MAJOR SUMMIT 6-11-7 P Hide (5-4) J Gifford 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

LIVELY KNIGHT 1l 2nd of 9 to Guinda in novice chase at Exeter (2m 2f, good). GORDON 19l 3rd of 9 to Or Royal in novice chase at Chepstow (2m 110yd, good to soft). HALKOPOUS 78l 14th of 19 to Cyborgo in Stayers Hurdle at Cheltenham (3m 110yd, good). HUGE MISTAKE beat Mister Muddypaws 2l in 9-runner novice hurdle at Perth (3m 110yd, good). IVY BOY about 14l 3rd of 9 to Clogrecon Boy in maiden hurdle at Down Royal (3m, good). RAMALLAH 15l 3rd of 7 to Greenback in novice chase at Taunton (2m 3f, good to firm). SLIDEOFHILL 3½l 2nd of 15 to Sugar Hill in maiden chase at Huntingdon (3m, good to soft). WHATTABOB 8l 2nd of 18 to Around The Gale in novice hurdle at Bangor (2m 4f, soft). BRIDEPARK ROSE 2l 2nd of 8 to Silogsby in novice chase at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm).
Selection: LIVELY KNIGHT

1.40 PLUM PUDDING CLAIMING HURDLE
(£2,199: 2m 5f) (11 runners)

301 44000-2 ROBERTY LEA 19 (BF,G,S) (Westdale Const) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-12 P Niven [illegible]
302 540-5 FRANK NAYLAR 35 (J Meaden) R Buckler 5-11-6 .... M Griffiths (7) 50
303 000-4 IMPERIAL HONORS 53 (R Gardner-Brown) N Lampard 5-11-0 .... Mr L Baker (7) —
304 P0/00 SEMINOLE WIND 14 (V) (Hole In The Wall Gang) C Barwell 5-10-11 B Fenton —
305 0P00-62 SNOWY LANE 37 (H,B,G,S) (J Neville) J Neville 8-10-11 .... N Williamson 65
306 25U0-6U STAC-POLLAIDH 16 (F) (I Buchan) K Bailey 6-10-9 .... C O'Dwyer 83
307 0/6PP-F0 FERNY BALL 10 (B) (Clumpy Group) T Forster 8-10-8 .... S Wynne —
308 20P6-62 QUIET MISTRESS 23 (B,S) (W Bethell) W Bethell 6-10-6 .... A Maguire 86
309 /03PP5/ ESCADARO 582 (V) (Mrs V Ward) Mrs V Ward 7-10-5 .... J R Kavanagh —
310 004-5 QUILLWORK 9 (J Pearce) J Pearce 4-10-3 .... V Smith 73
311 0 BIT 'O' SUNSHINE 17 (I Lloyd) C Smith 5-10-0 .... B Clarke (7) —

BETTING: 4-5 Roberty Lea, 6-1 Quiet Mistress, 8-1 Stac-Pollaidh, Snowy Lane, 10-1 Quillwork, 14-1 Frank Naylar, Imperial Honors, 16-1 others.

1995: WILL I FLY 9-10-13 B Fenton (9-1) J Long 15 ran

FORM FOCUS

ROBERTY LEA 8l 2nd of 7 to Out Ranking in claiming hurdle at Haydock (2m 4f, good). IMPERIAL HONORS 36l 4th of 8 to Jofis Absent in novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m 6f, good to firm). SNOWY LANE ½l 2nd of 10 to Top Skipper in handicap hurdle at Sedgefield (3m 3f 110yd, good). QUIET MISTRESS 1¾l 2nd of 14 to Mr Flutts in handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (3m 2f, good to soft). QUILLWORK 10¼l 5th of 9 to Sunny Dancer in claiming hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to soft).
Selection: ROBERTY LEA (nap)

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Catterick: 12.50 Make A Buck. Towcester: 12.40 Bill And Win, 2.10 Man Mood. Wolverhampton: 1.00 Boffy, 4.00 Colosse, 4.30 Dictation.

2.10 CHRISTMAS CRACKER HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,565: 2m 110yd) (6 runners)

401 FP-5P33 MAN MOOD 19 (B,G,S) (J Robbins) C Brooks 5-11-10 .... Mr E James 92
402 14/3115- JACOB'S WIFE 278 (D,F,G) (Black Sheep Flock) P Webber 6-11-6 .... J Osborne 90
403 213-F11 BEATSON 6 (F,G,S) (Mrs E Gardner) R Buckler 7-11-1 (6ex) .... B Powell 96
404 5P14/04 COUNT BARACHOIS 9 (CD,F,S) (Mrs E Heath) Mrs E Heath 8-10-10 .... A Thornton 83
405 232F40/ JULEIT JONES 617 (S) (J Plackett) J Gifford 7-10-4 .... L Aspell (3) —
406 424-352 DR ROCKET 7 (CD,F,G,S) (The Rocketeers) R Dickin 11-10-0 .... C Llewellyn [illegible]

BETTING: 5-4 Beatson, 7-2 Man Mood, 4-1 Jacob's Wife, 5-1 Dr Rocket, 10-1 Juleit Jones, 12-1 Count Barachois.

1995: TUDOR FABLE 7-10-2 M A Fitzgerald (7-2) N Henderson 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

MAN MOOD 6l 3rd to Fine Harvest in handicap chase at Warwick (2m, good). JACOB'S WIFE beat Artic Life 7l in 3-runner novice chase at Warwick (2m, good). BEATSON beat Boyers Dream 7l in handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good). DR ROCKET 2½l 3rd to The Lancer in handicap chase at Fakenham (2m, good).
Selection: DR ROCKET

2.40 SANTA CLAUS NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,898: 2m) (18 runners)

501 P-1 HOH WARRIOR 19 (D,G) (D Allport) C Brooks 5-11-5 .... G Bradley [illegible]
502 006-131 SPRINTFAYRE 12 (CD,G,S) (Mrs D Foster) J Long 8-11-5 .... A Irvine (7) 76
503 0/F ALONGWAYDOWN 10 (Three Stars Racing) D Gandolfo 7-10-12 .... D Leahy —
504 50- CAPTAIN WALTER 257 (W Stur) J Old 6-10-12 .... G Upton —
505 0006/ EKEUS 597 (Miss S Douglas-Pennant) J King 6-10-12 .... C Maude —
506 401-05 FERRERS 13 (G) (J Best) Mrs P Sly 5-10-12 .... R Marley —
507 43-40 FOXES LAD 19 (Mrs C Fox) N Babbage 5-10-12 .... V Slattery 80
508 0 KI CHI SAGA 14 (D Knight) M Madgwick 4-10-12 .... D Morris —
509 401/02- LEGIBLE 289 (G) (S Tindall) S Mellor 8-10-12 .... N Mann 92
510 MAJESTIC AFFAIR (Knights Racing) N Henderson 4-10-12 .... M A Fitzgerald —
511 120/3- RED BLAZER 393 (S) (T Shrimpton) Miss H Knight 5-10-12 .... J Osborne —
512 02-1 ROYAL RAVEN 27 (G) (A Welles) J Gifford 5-10-12 .... L Aspell (3) 90
513 0 STRATHMINSTER 36 (D Yardy) K Bailey 5-10-12 .... C O'Dwyer 86
514 THIRTY BELOW (Pell-mell Partners) J Old 7-10-12 .... S McNeill —
515 1/0P- VITAMAN 254 (F) (Larkhall Nat Hnt) Mrs J Pitman 7-10-12 .... W Marston —
516 MILWAUKEE (Mrs J Todd) O Brennan 7-10-7 .... M Brennan —
517 21 MOTOQUA 187 (F) (Mrs C Smith) D Nicholson 4-10-7 .... A Maguire —
518 50 TREHANE 8 (B March) N Graham 4-10-7 .... N Williamson 57

BETTING: 5-2 Hoh Warrior, 5-1 Royal Raven, 6-1 Motoqua, Red Blazer, 12-1 Sprintfayre, Majestic Affair, 14-1 others.

1995: MANDYS MANTINO 5-11-5 P Hide (Evens) J Gifford 16 ran

FORM FOCUS

HOH WARRIOR beat Queen of Spades 3l in 19-runner novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good). SPRINTFAYRE beat Ambidextrous 6l in 9-runner handicap hurdle over course and distance (2m, good to soft). LEGIBLE 2l 2nd of 13 to Altime Dancer in novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good to soft). RED BLAZER 5l 3rd of 11 to Chaprassi in National Hunt Flat race at Chepstow (2m 110yd, soft). ROYAL RAVEN beat Regal Pursuit 4l in 6-runner novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 4f, good). STRATHMINSTER 11l 8th of 17 to Aerion in novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good). VITAMAN best effort beat Legendra ½l in 22-runner National Hunt Flat race at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good to firm). MOTOQUA beat Fishin Cabin 10l in 9-runner National Hunt Flat race at Gowran Park (2m, good to firm).
Selection: HOH WARRIOR

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
D Nicholson	23	54	42.6	D Morris	4	13	30.8
J Long	3	9	33.3	A Maguire	19	70	27.1
R Curtis	4	15	26.7	R Dunwoody	15	66	22.7
P Richens	3	12	25.0	M Brennan	22	100	22.0
C Brooks	7	29	24.1	D Gallagher	10	52	19.2

3.10 LADBROKE HANDICAP CHASE (£7,263: 3m 1f) (12 runners)

601 5PFP-55 ALL THE ACES 12 (G,S) (J McManus) J J O'Neill 9-12-0 .... P Niven 89
602 1/111/1 RIVER MANDATE 20 (C,G,S) (Duchess Of Westminster) T Forster 9-12-0 A Thornton 90
603 4F/151-2 EVEN BLUE 20 (G,S) (Mrs C Black) D McCain 8-11-6 .... R Dunwoody 91
604 466-545 SPUFFINGTON 13 (G,S) (J Clopet) J Gifford 8-11-2 .... P Hide 98
605 322-13U BIG BEN DUN 40 (F,G,S) (Uplands Bloodstock) C Brooks 10-11-1 .... G Bradley 94
606 FF584-0 GHIA GNEUIAGH 13 (C,D,F,G,S) (Mrs S Scott) N T-Davies 10-10-12 D Bridgwater 58
607 21145-2 PRICE'S HILL 17 (S) (G Sarre) P Bailey 9-10-10 .... C O'Dwyer [illegible]
608 3F1U1/0- GRAVE BUCCANEER 390 (G,S) (R Watts) A Turnell 9-10-8 .... S McNeill —
609 F-3321/ CELTIC BARLE 663 (G,S) (Mrs J Hodge) H Hodge 12-10-5 .... A Maguire —
610 331P-10 SPECIAL ACCOUNT 13 (D,F,G,S) (T Fionic) C Barwell 10-10-0 .... B Fenton 95
611 55/3403- MWEENISH 287 (C,G,S) (R Hall) P Webber 14-10-0 .... R Bellamy 89
612 331226/ SHEELIN LAD 618 (D,S) (Mrs T McInnes Skinner) Mrs T McInnes Skinner 8-10-0 G Upton —

Long handicap: Special Account 9-12, Mweenish 9-3, Sheelin Lad 9-3

BETTING: 9-4 Even Blue, 5-2 River Mandate, 11-2 Price's Hill, 8-1 Spuffington, 11-1 Big Ben Dun, 12-1 Special Account, 14-1 All The Aces, 16-1 Grave Buccaneer, 20-1 others

1995: SUNY BAY 6-11-9 G Bradley (9-4) C Brooks 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

ALL THE ACES 17¾l 5th of 6 to The Last Fling in handicap chase at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). RIVER MANDATE beat EVEN BLUE (3lb better off) ½l in handicap chase at Bangor (2m 4f 110yd, soft). EVEN BLUE beat Lord Gyllene 1¼l in 6-runner handicap chase at Uttoxeter (3m 2f, good) on penultimate start. BIG BEN DUN 7½l 3rd of 5 to Church Law in handicap chase at Stratford (3m 4f, good). PRICE'S HILL 2l 2nd of 4 to Badastan in handicap chase at Wincanton (3m 1f 110yd, good to firm). SPECIAL ACCOUNT beat Frozen Drop ¾l in handicap chase at Wincanton (3m 1f 110yd, good to firm).
Selection: EVEN BLUE

3.40 IVY STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(£1,417: 2m) (15 runners)

1 1 BILLINGSGATE 17 (D,S) (D Chesney) D Chesney 4-11-11 .... N Wilmington (7) —
2 1- PRINCEFUL 211 (D,G) (R Hitchins) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-11 .... G Hogan (3) —
3 BARTHOLOMEW FAIR (D Bowkett) C Dwyer 5-11-4 .... I Lawrence —
4 BELVENTO (Mrs J Plackett) J Gifford 4-11-4 .... P Hide —
5 BENJAMIN JONES (M Florey) C Hemsley 4-11-4 .... B Fenton —
6 3 BROOKHAMPTON LANE 12 (R Tompkins) Mrs A Bowlby 5-11-4 .... B Powell —
7 JOLLY HEART (Lady Anne Bentinck) O Brennan 6-11-4 .... M Brennan —
8 KING MOLE (Mrs J Fowler) J Old 5-11-4 .... G Upton —
9 MR MOONLIGHT (Mrs J Cohen) C Brooks 4-11-4 .... G Bradley —
10 MR ROBSTEE 261P (P King) A Chamberlain 5-11-4 .... L Harvey —
11 SHEET LIGHTNING (G & P Partners) R Smith 4-11-4 .... D Bridgwater —
12 2 SHORE PARTY 22 (BF) (Mrs J Mould) N Twiston-Davies 4-11-4 L Suthern (7) —
13 THETWOKAYS (R & J Kent) O Brennan 5-11-4 .... S Pontin (7) —
14 40 WILLOWS ROULETTE 22 (Miss J Brace) A Hobbs 4-11-4 .... R Greene —
15 BIRDIETOD (R Sturgess) Mrs P Sly 4-10-13 .... R Marley —

BETTING: 7-4 Princeful, 4-1 Shore Party, 9-2 Billingsgate, 8-1 King Mole, 10-1 Belvento, Mr Moonlight, 12-1 Brookhampton Lane, 16-1 others

1995: BOSS'S BANK 5-11-4 A Maguire (6-1) D Nicholson 18 ran

FORM FOCUS

BILLINGSGATE beat Dark Orchard 4l in 20-runner National Hunt Flat race at Worcester (2m, good to soft). PRINCEFUL beat Quick Bowler 12l in 16-runner National Hunt Flat race at Worcester (2m good). BROOKHAMPTON LANE 12l 3rd of 10 to Lively Encounter in National Hunt Flat race over course and distance (2m, good to soft). SHORE PARTY 2½l 2nd of 15 to Lady Rebecca in National Hunt Flat race at Chepstow (2m 110yd, soft) with WILLOWS ROULETTE 33½l 8th. WILLOWS ROULETTE 7½l 4th of 8 to Tidal Force in National Hunt Flat race at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, firm) on penultimate start.
Selection: PRINCEFUL

☐ Lord Dorcet, a promising two-mile chaser, will run in the Castleford Chase at Wetherby on December 27 before a crack at the £40,000 Victor Chandler Handicap Chase at Ascot in January, his trainer, Alistair Charlton, announced yesterday.

CATTERICK

THUNDERER

12.20 King Pin. 12.50 Springhill Quay. 1.20 Fen Terrier. 1.50 Twin Falls. 2.20 Troodos. 2.50 Kenmore-Speed. 3.20 Point Reyes.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT SIS

12.20 PICTON NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,742: 2m 3f) (19 runners)

1 0-15 ETERNAL CITY 96 (BF,G) G Richards 5-11-5 .... A Dobbin 93
2 4-31 LAGEN BRIDGE 15 (CD,G) D Moffatt 7-11-5 .... D J Moffatt [illegible]
3 1 MISTER ROSS 17 (G) J H Johnson 6-11-5 .... A S Smith 96
4 5P-P BLOND MOSS 19 S Kettlewell 6-10-12 .... G Lee (3) —
5 460- DON'T TELL TOM 257 J Wade 6-10-12 .... K Jones 93
6 0 EDSTONE 16 J Curtis 4-10-12 .... B Storey —
7 00-0 ELEMENT OF RISK 19 W Cunningham 6-10-12 .... N Smith —
8 3/F FILS DE CRESSON 34 J Adam 6-10-12 .... M Moloney —
9 0P- FORT ZEDOAAN 546 Mrs S Smith 6-10-12 .... R Guest —
10 0-P GALLANT MAJOR 34 M Barnes 4-10-12 .... S Taylor (5) —
11 333 GAZANALI 20 G Moore 5-10-12 .... N Bentley 95
12 5-00 JOE LUKE 20 G Moore 4-10-12 .... J Callaghan 71
13 1-43 KING PIN 17 (G) P Beaumont 4-10-12 .... R Supple 93
14 MAJOR HARRIS M Hammond 4-10-12 .... R Garritty —
15 /4-P MATACHON 193 M Smith 6-10-12 .... J Supple —
16 500- MEESONS EXPRESS 283 Mrs S Horner-Harker 6-10-12 .... M Foster —
17 -515 SILVER MINX 16 (G) Mrs M Reveley 4-10-12 .... R Hodge —
18 04-3 HUTCEL LOCH 88 R Woodhouse 5-10-7 .... R Johnson —
19 00-4 PHILBECKY 28 J Jefferson 5-10-7 .... E Callaghan (3) 71

4-1 Mister Ross, 5-1 Lagen Bridge, 6-1 King Pin, 7-1 Hutcel Loch, Major Harris, 8-1 Eternal City, 10-1 Silver Minx, 12-1 others.

12.50 ST PAULS MAIDEN CHASE
(£2,561: 2m 3f) (10)

1 -0PP BOSWORTH FIELD 9 (B) Mrs S Horner-Harker 8-11-5 M Foster 77
2 Pf BRIGADIER JOHN 677P J Adam 7-11-5 .... M Moloney —
3 5PRP CARDINAL SINNER 13 J Wade 7-11-5 .... K Jones —
4 P6-2 CUSH SUPREME 8 M Todhunter 7-11-5 .... R Johnson [illegible]
5 5F5 FAIR ALLY 13 M Sowersby 6-11-5 .... D Parker 94
6 4-00 GRAND AS OWT 8 D McCune 6-11-5 .... K Johnson 88
7 0P-0 MAKE A BUCK 15 (B) L Lungo 6-11-5 .... R Guest —
8 P00- PERROYAL 295 Mrs S Smith 6-11-5 .... R Wilkinson (7) —
9 -U2F ROYAL HAND 5 R Arnson 6-11-5 .... Mr R Arnson —
10 4 SPRINGHILL QUAY 9 (BF,G) G Richards 7-11-5 .... A Dobbin —

7-4 Cush Supreme, 5-2 Springhill Quay, 6-1 Perroyal, 7-1 Make A Buck, 8-1 Grand As Owt, 10-1 Royal Hand, 12-1 others.

1.20 AMPLEFORTH HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,066: 2m) (5)

1 1-45 I'M A DREAMER 14 (D,F) Miss M Rowland 6-12-0 .... R Wilkinson (7) 98
2 4152 FEN TERRIER 10 (D,BF,F,G) F Murtagh 4-11-13 .... A Dobbin 90
3 2622 PANGERAN 9 Mrs A Swinbank 4-11-0 .... J Supple 96
4 014- OPERA FAN 238 (CD,G) K Morgan 4-10-13 .... A S Smith 95
5 0/0 FRED'S DELIGHT 13 (D,S) Mrs V Aconley 5-10-8 .... B Storey [illegible]

7-4 Fen Terrier, 5-2 Pangeran, 9-2 I'm A Dreamer, Opera Fan, 14-1 Fred's Delight.

RACELINE
0930 168+ COMMENTARY RESULTS
TOWCESTER 101 201
CATTERICK 102 202
W'HAMPTON 103 203
FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

1.50 HAPPY CHRISTMAS HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,635: 2m) (6)

1 2413 FULL O'PRAISE 15 (D,F,G) P Calver 9-12-0 .... T Reed [illegible]
2 2512 TWIN FALLS 1 (CD,F,G) G Moore 5-11-8 .... J Callaghan 94
3 -63P PORT IN A STORM 15 (D,S) M Hammond 7-11-1 .... Mr C Bonner (3) 89
4 P-05 POSITIVE ACTION 15 (CD,F,G,S) M Barnes 10-10-12 .... S Taylor (5) 94
5 1-P6 THE MINISTER 7 (CD,F) R Champion 7-10-9 .... A Dobbin 82
6 03F5 MONAUGHTY MAN 3 (S) E Caine 10-10-0 .... K Johnson 80

6-4 Twin Falls, 9-4 Full O'Praise, 5-1 Port In A Storm, 6-1 Positive Action, 8-1 The Minister, 25-1 Monaughty Man.

2.20 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,364: 3m 1f 110yd) (9)

1 12P1 TROODOS 9 (CD,F,G) Mrs A Swinbank 10-11-12 (7ex) J Supple 93
2 41- ABSALOM'S PILLAR 404 (S) J Mackie 6-11-10 .... T Eley 91
3 4-55 IFALLELSEFAILS 8 (F) L Lungo 8-11-4 .... R Guest 95
4 -233 PHARARE 34 (F,S) R Woodhouse 6-11-3 .... A S Smith 91
5 1243 SMART APPROACH 37 (BF,F) Mrs M Reveley 6-10-13 .... C McCormack (7) 98
6 4-PP MOOBAKKR 88 (F,G,S) K Morgan 5-10-11 .... E Callaghan (3) 98
7 2232 BALLINDOO 8 (F) R Arnson 7-10-7 .... Mr R Arnson 98
8 1P0 ANCHORENA 12 (F) D Barker 4-10-2 .... A Dobbin 90
9 R06- DENTICULATA 278 (F,G) P Spottiswood 8-10-0 .... D Parker [illegible]

3-1 Troodos, 7-2 Pharare, 4-1 Smart Approach, 5-1 Absalom's Pillar, 6-1 Ifallelsefails, 7-1 Ballindoo, 16-1 others.

2.50 CATTERICK CLUB 1997 JOIN UP NOW HANDICAP CHASE (£3,596: 3m 1f 110yd) (8)

1 2-01 DON'T TELL THE WIFE 7 (G,S) C Egerton 10-12-6 (6ex) .... Mr R Thornton (5) 98
2 -383 PATS MINSTREL 7 (F,G,S) R Champion 11-11-7 .... A Dobbin 94
3 354U PIMS GUNNER 5 (D,F,G,S) M Hammond 8-11-6 .... R Garritty 98
4 0821 KENMORE-SPEED 15 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs S Smith 9-10-13 R Guest 96
5 0-6F MARCHWOOD 15 (G,S) N Chamberlain 9-10-11 .... T Reed —
6 3U02 GALE AHEAD 15 (D,F,G) G Moore 6-10-11 .... N Bentley 98
7 5-43 SPARROW HALL 13 (F,G,S) J Fitzgerald 9-10-5 .... R Johnson [illegible]
8 3P3- HEAVENLY CITIZEN 269 (CD,F,G,S) J Gledson 8-10-2 B Storey 95

9-4 Kenmore-Speed, 7-2 Gale Ahead, 4-1 Don't Tell The Wife, 9-2 Pats Minstrel, 8-1 Sparrow Hall, 10-1 Pims Gunner, 16-1 others.

3.20 GARRISON INTERMEDIATE NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,343: 2m) (14)

1 BRANDSBY MINSTER P Beaumont 5-11-4 .... B Grattan (7) —
2 3-0 DANTES AMOUR 27 M Hammond 5-11-4 .... R Burns (7) —
3 0-0 HARFDECENT 33 Mrs M Reveley 5-11-4 .... G Lee (3) —
4 HUNTING SLANE C Grant 4-11-4 .... F Leahy (3) —
5 MONSIEUR DARCY J Adam 5-11-4 .... Mr C Storey —
6 POINT REYES C Thornton 4-11-4 .... N Horrocks (7) —
7 RECCA Denys Smith 4-11-4 .... Mr C Bonner (3) —
8 0 THE STUFFED PUFFIN 33 L Lungo 4-11-4 .... I Jardine (7) —
9 0 BROOK HOUSE 38 B Bousfield 5-10-13 .... C McCormack (7) —
10 0/ HENBRIG 978 G Oldroyd 8-10-13 .... G Parkin (3) —
11 0 MISS FORTINA 16 J Curtis 4-10-13 .... D Parker —
12 00 MOVISA 13 W Smith 6-10-13 .... S Taylor (5) —
13 24-2 NIFAAF 54 K Morgan 4-10-13 .... Mr R Thornton (5) —
14 4 PUSH ON POLLY 13 J Parkes 6-10-13 .... E Callaghan (3) —

3-1 Nifaaf, 7-2 Point Reyes, 5-1 Brandsby Minster, 6-1 Dantes Amour, 8-1 Harfdecent, Recca, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: C Thornton, 4 winners from 9 runners, 44.4%; K Morgan, 13 from 40, 32.5%; Mrs M Reveley, 18 from 80, 22.5%; J Fitzgerald, 11 from 49, 22.4%; L Lungo, 8 from 38, 21.1%; Mrs V Aconley, 4 from 29, 13.8%.

JOCKEYS: A S Smith, 14 winners from 45 rides, 31.1%; T Eley, 3 from 11, 27.3%; E Callaghan, 6 from 25, 24.0%; P Niven, 15 from 66, 22.7%; R Guest, 7 from 37, 18.9%; R Garritty, 13 from 80, 16.3%.

☐ Tirmizi gave Ann Swinbank, the trainer, her fifteenth winner of the season — equalling her combined score for the last four jumps seasons — when defeating the odds-on favourite, Furietto, in the Raffyard House Selling Hurdle at Catterick yesterday.

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER

1.00 Standown. 1.30 Double March. 2.00 Little Ibnr. 2.30 Jigsaw Boy. 3.00 Millroy. 3.30 Master Foley. 4.00 Claque. 4.30 How's Yer Father.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

1.00 DUNSTON CLAIMING STAKES
(Div I: £2,187: 6f) (13 runners)

1 SALLY ARMSTRONG C Thornton 3-9-4 .... S Drowne 1
2 3140 ULTRA BEET 110 (CD,F,G) P Haslam 4-9-1 .... P Goode (7) 11
3 0020 CROSS OF VALOUR 90 (D,F) P Howling 3-9-0 .... J Quinn 2
4 2050 STANDOWN 20 (C,D,F,G,S) J Berry 3-8-13 .... P Roberts (5) 13
5 0000 BOFFY 5 (B,CD,G) B Baugh 3-8-9 .... R Perham 4
6 2002 PRIMULA BAIRN 16 (B,C,G,S) D Nicholls 6-8-8 .... C Rutter 7
7 6-0 DUNMEBRAINS 51 J Moore 3-8-8 .... P P Murphy (5) 12
8 0050 DHES-C 24 (CD,G) R Hollinshead 3-8-6 .... M Wigham 9
9 0040 LOSIE PERT LAD 8 J Bridger 4-8-5 .... S Sanders 3
10 0016 SHASHI 20 (D,F,G) W Haigh 4-8-4 .... R Lappin 5
11 0685 SOUTHERN RULE 14 (D,G) Miss Rowland 9-8-3 Joanna Morgan 10
12 4140 MARJORIE ROSE 75 (C,G) A Bailey 3-8-2 .... D Wright 6
13 0000 PEACEFULL REPLY 31 (V,D,F) F Lee 6-8-2 .... Dane O'Neill 8

4-1 Primula Bairn, 5-1 Shashi, 6-1 Marjorie Rose, 7-1 Ultra Beet, 8-1 Standown, 10-1 Cross Of Valour, Marjorie Rose, 12-1 others

1.30 BRIDGETOWN HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £3,203: 1m 100yd) (13)

1 2020 YEOMAN OLIVER 12 (B,CD,G) B McMahon 9-7 .... D Biggs 10
2 0000 ANTONIAS MELODY 27 (BF,G,S) S Bowring 9-6 .... S D Williams 13
3 5023 GERUNDE JOHN 13J J Parkes 9-4 .... P McCabe (3) 11
4 0000 DOUBLE MARCH 6 P Webber 9-4 .... R Perham 12
5 500 WINDRUSH HOLLY 47 J Bosley 9-4 .... T Sprake 9
6 0400 CHILIBANG BANG 19 (C,G,S) J Berry 9-2 .... P Roberts (5) 1
7 3025 DRAGONJOY 12 (V,CD,G) N Littmoden 9-1 .... T G McLaughlin 5
8 634 SCHERMA 30 W Jarvis 8-13 .... W Ryan 7
9 2000 VANADIUM ORE 51 (V) J Eyre 8-6 .... R Lappin 6
10 6164 MONO LADY 37 (S) D Haydn Jones 8-6 .... T Williams 4
11 0021 THREE WEEKS 16 (D,G) W Muir 8-6 .... Dane O'Neill 3
12 2560 FINISTERRE 24 (G) J J O'Neill 8-5 .... J Quinn 8
13 4150 SILVER HARROW 47 (F) A Newcombe 8-4 .... S Drowne 2

7-2 Three Weeks, 5-1 Scherma, 6-1 Gerunde John, 7-1 Dragonjoy, 8-1 Yeoman Oliver, Mono Lady, 10-1 Silver Harrow, 12-1 others.

2.00 DUNSTON CLAIMING STAKES
(Div II: £2,187: 6f) (13)

1 -601 JIBEREEN 16 (D,G,S) P Howling 4-9-9 .... S Whitworth 3
2 0011 MR FROSTY 5 (CD,G) W Jarvis 4-9-9 .... S Sanders 5
3 0012 PALACEGATE JACK 27 (D,F,G,S) C Dwyer 5-9-9 .... R Hughes 8
4 6201 CHADWELL HALL 20 (CD,F,G,S) S Bowring 5-9-3 S D Williams 4
5 0100 PRESENT 'N CORRECT 38 (F) C Booth 3-8-13 .... A Culhane 7
6 0006 THE HAPPY FOX 49 (B,F,G) B McMahon 4-8-13 S D Williams 12
7 0 SEANCHAI 20 P Felgate 3-8-11 .... P McCabe (3) 13
8 6506 LITTLE IBNR 125 (CD,F,G) P Evans 5-8-9 .... Anthony Bond (7) 11
9 0332 BOLD ARISTOCRAT 16 (D,G) R Hollinshead 5-8-7 .... M Wigham 2
10 0000 KHATTAT 58 (G,S) J A Harris 6-8-7 .... S Drowne 10
11 0000 SIR TASKER 24 (C,D,F,G) J L Harris 8-8-5 .... J Quinn 6
12 0000 JUSTINIANUS 34 (D,G,S) J Bridger 4-8-3 .... N Carlisle 9
13 1540 MISS CHARLIE 86 (F) A Bailey 6-7-12 .... D Wright 1

4-1 Chadwell Hall, 9-2 Palacegate Jack, 5-1 Mr Frosty, 6-1 Jibereen, Bold Aristocrat, 8-1 Little Ibnr, 10-1 Khattat, 12-1 others.

2.30 DUDLEY HANDICAP
(Div I: £2,187: 7f) (12)

1 0010 JIGSAW BOY 24 (CD,F,G,S) P Murphy 7-10-0 .... S Drowne 8
2 0025 SEA SPOUSE 20 (D,G,S) M Blanshard 5-9-13 .... N Adams 9
3 0114 LEIGH CROFTER 16 (B,CD,BF,F,G,S) P Cundell 7-9-7 R Hughes 1
4 2500 AFRICAN-PARD 124 D Haydn Jones 4-9-6 .... S Whitworth 11
5 0240 SOUPERFICIAL 5 (V,CD,F,G) N Tinkler 5-9-5 .... Kim Tinkler 5
6 0000 GULF SHAADI 12 (CD,G) E Alston 4-9-4 .... S Sanders 6
7 0225 CATS BOTTOM 52 (BF,F) A Newcombe 4-9-2 .... J Quinn 12
8 0000 CRONGH PATRICK 19J J Fox 4-9-0 .... C Rutter 10
9 -000 BOGNRT 255 (D,G) C Fairhurst 5-8-13 .... R Lappin 3
10 6606 ARCUS 27 (B) W Muir 3-8-13 .... Dane O'Neill 7
11 2550 FLAGSTAFF 134 K Burke 3-8-12 .... P Wright (7) 2
12 0000 BLUSHING GRENADIER 83 (G,S) M F-Godley 4-8-10 .... F Norton 4

7-2 Leigh Crofter, 5-1 Cats Bottom, 6-1 Sea Spouse, 7-1 Jigsaw Boy, Souperficial, 8-1 Blushing Grenadier, 10-1 others.

3.00 CANNOCK NURSERY HANDICAP
(2-Y-O: £3,599: 7f) (10)

1 0021 MILLROY 8 (D,G) P Kelleway 10-0 (7ex) .... M Wigham 7
2 2024 EFFERVESCENCE 5 R Hannon 9-6 .... Dane O'Neill 3
3 0533 NOMORE MR NICEGUY 5 (G) E Alston 9-6 .... A Culhane 5
4 1156 DAVIS ROCK 16 (C,G) W Muir 9-0 .... W Ryan 6
5 0031 DOUBLE-O 12 (C,G) W Jarvis 9-0 .... S Sanders 2
6 1022 C-HARRY 20 (C,G,S) R Hollinshead 8-10 .... N Carlisle 1
7 005 AMICO 31 C Thornton 8-8 .... F Norton 4
8 2252 GOING FOR BROKE 78 (BF) P Haslam 8-7 .... T Williams 9
9 0006 NINTH SYMPHONY 31 (D,F) P Haslam 8-7 .... S Drowne 10
10 0505 EWAR ARRANGEMENT 14 C Brittain 8-2 .... J Quinn 8

7-2 Millroy, 5-1 Nomore Mr Niceguy, 6-1 C-Harry, 7-1 Effervescence, Double-O, Ninth Symphony, 8-1 others.

3.30 MORVILLE SELLING STAKES
(2-Y-O: £2,259: 6f) (13)

1 6503 BROADGATE FLYER 127 Mrs L Stubbs 8-11 .... S Whitworth 4
2 000 FRANDICKBOB 20 J A Harris 8-11 .... S Sanders 3
3 3200 FULL TRACEABILITY 75 (G) J J O'Neill 8-11 .... J Quinn 9
4 2421 LIGHTNING BOLT 12 (C,G) M Johnston 8-11 .... T Williams 6
5 0045 MASTER FOLEY 16 N Littmoden 8-11 .... T G McLaughlin 13
6 00 PET EXPRESS 12 P Haslam 8-11 .... P Goode (7) 1
7 ROYAL CASCADE B McMahon 8-11 .... N Carlisle 7
8 00 DITTY BOX 171 M Usher 8-6 .... A McGlone 5
9 FRYM J Wharton 8-6 .... F Norton 2
10 000 JOYFUL JOY 142 B Baugh 8-6 .... R Perham 11
11 566 LILY JAQUES 164 R Guest 8-6 .... D Biggs 8
12 4600 TERRY'S ROSE 52 R Hollinshead 8-6 .... M Wigham 12
13 2900 WILL TO WIN 24 P Murphy 8-6 .... S Drowne 10

2-1 Lightning Bolt, 3-1 Master Foley, 4-1 Broadgate Flyer, 8-1 Lily Jaques, Joyful Joy, 12-1 Will To Win, 14-1 others.

4.00 HIMLEY AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP
(£2,537: 1m 4f) (12)

1 2436 BEAUMAN 332 (S) P Evans 6-11-7 .... A Evans (5) 9
2 00-0 SMUGGLER'S POINT 15J (F) J Bridger 6-11-2 D Bridger (5) 6
3 0004 CLAQUE 6 (B,CD,G) D Chapman 4-11-2 .... Miss R Clark 12
4 6002 KINNESCASH 24 (F,S) P Bowen 3-11-0 .... Mrs L Pearce 11
5 0301 GOLDEN HADEER 20 (D,G,S) M Ryan 5-10-13 S Lavallin (5) 10
6 0066 NORTH ARDAR 16 (D,F,G) T Watt 6-10-13 .... Miss A Anderson (5) 5
7 3405 WILDFIRE 16 (D,G,S) R Akehurst 5-10-12 .... T McCarthy 8
8 5006 COLOSSE 14 (V,D,G) J Eyre 4-10-10 .... Miss Diana Jones 4
9 5050 NAUTICAL JEWEL 16 M Usher 4-10-10 .... Mrs A Usher (5) 7
10 50-0 ROZEL BAY 15 N Twiston-Davies 3-10-9 .... A Wintle (5) 2
11 1055 GLOBE RUNNER 33J (F) J J O'Neill 3-10-7 .... Miss S Kennell (5) 1
12 2340 RASAYEL 8 (D,F,G) P Evans 6-10-6 .... W McLaughlin (5) 3

3-1 Golden Hadeer, 4-1 Kinnescash, 6-1 Wildfire, 7-1 Beauman, 8-1 Claque, 10-1 North Ardar, 12-1 others.

4.30 DUDLEY HANDICAP (Div II: £2,187: 7f) (12)

1 1064 SEA DANZIG 6 (D,G) J Bridger 3-10-0 .... S Sanders 7
2 4000 THREE ARCH BRIDGE 12 (B,D,F,G) M Johnston 4-9-13 .... T Williams 12
3 2426 HOW'S YER FATHER 5 (D,BF,F,G,S) R Hodges 10-9-9 .... T Sprake 11
4 5043 CHEEKY CHAPPY 5 (B,C,F,G,S) D Chapman 5-9-9 A Culhane 6
5 0002 ENCORE M'LADY 19 (C,D,F,G,S) F Lee 5-9-6 .... R Lappin 8
6 0000 DICTATION 27J (B,BF) J J O'Neill 4-9-6 .... Dane O'Neill 4
7 4063 MOMS 16 (V,F) J Balding 5-9-2 .... G Faulkner (5) 2
8 -041 RUNNING GREEN 16 (D) D Moffatt 5-9-2 .... J Quinn 9
9 0000 LIA FAIL 19 (G,G) R Hollinshead 3-8-12 .... M Wigham 1
10 0104 HOLLOWAY MELODY 19 (B) B McMahon 3-8-12 T Williams 10
11 0064 AMY LEIGH 19 (B,G) Capt J Wilson 3-8-12 Angela Hartley (7) 5
12 6403 QUINTIN MARTIN 110 (CD,G) D Haydn Jones 8-8-11 S Drowne 3

5-1 Cheeky Chappy, 6-1 Sea Danzig, Encore M'Lady, 7-1 Running Green, How's Yer Father, 8-1 Moms, Amy Leigh, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: W Jarvis, 6 winners from 22 runners, 27.3%; R Guest, 8 from 31, 25.8%; M Johnston, 44 from 184, 23.9%; P Haslam, 27 from 139, 19.4%; C Dwyer, 7 from 36, 19.4%; P Felgate, 6 from 34, 17.6%; W Haigh, 4 from 23, 17.4%.

JOCKEYS: Anthony Bond, 3 winners from 6 rides, 50.0%; R Hughes, 7 from 29, 24.1%; W Ryan, 11 from 63, 17.5%; R Lappin, 6 from 37, 16.2%; Dane O'Neill, 4 from 25, 16.0%; P McCabe, 7 from 56, 12.5%.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Bangor

Going: good, good to soft in places

12.30 (2m 1f hdle) 1, D'NAAN (A P McCoy, 13-8 fav); 2, Lime Street Blues (G Bradley, 11-4); 3, Fastini Gold (W McFarland, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 5 Rattle, 8 Night Boat, 20 Persian Dawn (pu), 25 Naterm, 33 Admiral's Guest (6th), Analogical (5th), Chillington, Indian Wolf (pu), Smiley Face (4th), Spitfire Bridge, 50 Miss The Beat. 14 ran. NR: Al Helal, Appeal Again, Indian Temple, Nantgarw. 4l, 11l, 11l, 4l, hd. M Pipe at Wellington. Tote: £2.80; £2.00, £1.30, £2.50. DF: £3.90. Trio: £24.40. CSF: £6.97.

1.00 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, AROUND THE GALE (R Dunwoody, 4-7 fav); 2, Bayline Star (G Bradley, 14-1); 3, Garnwin (J R Kavanagh, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 8 Chipped Out (5th), Decyborg (4th), 10 Naughty Future (pu), 14 Macgeorge (ur), 20 Valley Garden (pu). 8 ran. 8l, 2l, 27l, dist. D Gandolfo at Wantage. Tote: £1.50; £1.10, £3.80, £2.70. DF: £10.90. CSF: £9.92.

1.30 (3m ch) 1, FREDDIE MUCK (C Llewellyn, 3-1 fav); 2, Yes Man (R Johnson, 8-1); 3, Sun Surfer (S Wynne, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 100-30 General Tonic (4th), 7-2 Nahthen Lad (6th), 14 Call My Guest, 25 Little Gunner (5th). 7 ran. 3½l, 4l, ¾l, 10l, 8l. N T-Davies at Cheltenham. Tote: £3.20; £1.50, £4.80. DF: £18.70. CSF: £22.82.

2.00 (4m 1f ch) 1, PENNINE PRIDE (N Williamson, 5-1); 2, Glenfinn Princess (Derek Byrne, 10-1); 3, Stop The Waller (Mr R Thornton, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 11-4 fav Holy Sting (5th), 4 Rocky Park (ur), 7 Desperate (pu), 10 Keep It Zipped (f), 12 Front Line (pu), 20 Shamarphil (4th), 33 Lenthall Princess (f). 10 ran. 7l, 18l, 1¼l, 24l. M Hammond at Middleham. Tote: £7.20; £2.20, £2.70, £1.80. DF: £33.80. Trio: £77.80. CSF: £51.48. Tricast: £287.64.

2.30 (2m 1f hdle) 1, KINTAVI (G Hogan, 2-1 fav); 2, Glowing Path (J Harris, 5-2); 3, Country Minstrel (D Fortt, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 5 Schnozzle (6th), 12 Kadari (4th), 14 Sheep Stealer, 16 Alaskan Heir, Never So Blue, 33 Biya (5th), 50 Tango Man. 10 ran. 7l, 5l, 6l, 3½l, 10l. T Donnelly at Swadlincote. Tote: £3.00; £1.30, £1.80, £2.50. DF: £4.40. Trio: £34.10. CSF: £7.22. Tricast: £41.98.

3.00 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, DISTINCTIVE (C Llewellyn, 5-1); 2, Fools Errand (A P McCoy, 7-2); 3, Really A Rascal (R Dunwoody, 11-4 fav). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Sorbo (4th), 13-2 Mine's An Ace (f), 11 Sister Rosza (f), 20 Potato Man (pu), 40 Dolikos (pu). 8 ran. NR: Tribal Ruler. 4l, 2½l, 12l. M Wilkinson at Banbury. Tote: £6.60; £1.60, £1.80, £1.10. DF: £9.80. Trio: £8.60. CSF: £21.19. Tricast: £51.33.

3.30 (2m 1f flat) 1, SCORING PEDIGREE (S Curran, 5-4 fav); 2, Callindoe (N Williamson, 7-1); 3, Chasing The Moon (A P McCoy, 9-2). ALSO RAN: 8 Micks, 15-2 Gower-Slave (4th), 12 The Croppy Boy, Water Font, 20 Maggie Strait (6th), 33 Mistress Tudor, The Eens (5th), 50 Dancing Ranger, Just Andy, 66 Glendronach, 100 Cashel Quay. 14 ran. 7l, 8l, 3½l, 4l, nk. J Mullins at Andover. Tote: £2.10; £1.40, £2.40, £2.10. DF: £8.30. Trio: £15.30. CSF: £12.08.

Jackpot: £7,222.30 (part won. Pool of £610.34 carried forward to Towcester today).

Placepot: £25.10. Quadpot: £11.40.

Exeter

Going: good

12.40 (2m 2f hdle) 1, TOP SKIPPER (Mr J Tizzard, 12-1); 2, Peter Monamy (C Maude, 1-2 fav); 3, Fortunes Rose (T J Murphy, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 5 Khatir (4th), 14 Allahrakha (pu), My Harvinski (pu), 25 Bonjito (5th), 66 Norfolk Glory (ur), Robin Island (pu). 9 ran. 5l, 8l, nk, hd. V Greenway at Taunton. Tote: £13.90; £2.80, £1.00, £3.70. DF: £5.20. Trio: £21.50. CSF: £17.86.

1.10 (2m 2f ch) 1, GROOVING (P Hide, 7-2); 2, Court Master (B Powell, 11-1); 3, Dante's View (D O'Sullivan, 50-1). ALSO RAN: 6-4 fav Kimanicky (pu), 4 Castlekellyleader (pu), 12 Reeshloch (bd), 16 Tellicherry (4th), 20 Josifina, 25 Uncle Algy (pu), 40 Boots N All (6th), 66 Dodgy Dealer (5th), 100 Bullanguero (pu). 12 ran. NR: Colette's Choice. Hd, 1l, 15l, 28l. J Gifford at Findon. Tote: £5.00; £1.40, £2.40, £23.00. DF: £21.00. Trio: £233.90 — part won (pool of £270.15 carried forward to Towcester 1.10 today). CSF: £38.67.

1.40 (2m 2f hdle) 1, COOL GUNNER (C Maude, 8-1); 2, Supreme Genotin (G Upton, 6-4 fav); 3, Winnow (L Harvey, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Tap Shoes, 6 Above The Cut (6th), 7 Blazing Miracle (5th), 16 Tudor Town (4th), 33 Prince Of Prey. 8 ran. NR: Achill Prince, Fabulous Mtoto, Sounds Like Fun. 6l, 3½l, 9½l, nk, dist. J King at Swindon. Tote: £7.50; £1.40, £1.70, £1.90. DF: £7.50. Trio: £20.30. CSF: £21.28. Tricast: £76.30.

2.10 (2m 2f hdle) 1, EDGEMOOR PRINCE (A Maguire, 4-1); 2, Spring Saint (G Upton, 5-1); 3, Bell One (S McNeill, 100-30 fav). ALSO RAN: 4 Khalidi (4th), 11-2 Slew Man (6th), 7 Decide Yourself (pu), 16 Road To Au Bon (5th). 7 ran. 8l, 15l, 9l, ¾l, 16l. P Hobbs at Minehead. Tote: £3.30; £1.80, £4.20. DF: £18.70. CSF: £22.27.

2.40 (2m 7f 110yd ch) 1, FULL OF FIRE (C O'Dwyer, 6-1); 2, Shining Light (A Maguire, 2-1 fav); 3, Oats Regrets (J Osborne, 7-2). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Dom Samourai (5th), 8 Sunley Bay (4th), 12 Duhallow Lodge (pu), 14 Master Jolson (pu). 7 ran. 1½l, 9l, 10l, 1l. K Bailey at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £7.10; £2.60, £1.10. DF: £9.70. CSF: £18.38.

3.10 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, RIVER BAY (B Fenton, 9-4); 2, Fiddling The Facts (M A Fitzgerald, 5-1); 3, Moonlighter (O Burrows, 100-1). ALSO RAN: 2-1 fav Gaye Fame (4th), 6 Royal Ruler (pu), 16 Dolce Notte (pu), 20 Brown Wren, O My Love (5th), 33 Country Style (6th), 40 Vansell, 50 Bonita Blakeney, Ginger Maid, Pharmorefun, 100 Country Town, Half Moon Girl, Lilly The Filly (pu), Zen Or. 17 ran. NR: Sula's Dream. Nk, 20l, 13l, 14l, 12l. Miss H Knight at Wantage. Tote: £3.10; £1.20, £2.10, £10.20. DF: £12.00. Trio: not won. CSF: £13.85.

Placepot: £94.30. Quadpot: £25.20.

Catterick Bridge

Going: good to soft

12.50 (2m ch) 1, Monyman (R Garritty, 11-8 fav); 2, Twin Falls (3-1); 3, Fenwick's Brother (14-1). 6 ran. 5l, 4l. M Hammond. Tote: £2.70; £4.50, £1.10. DF: £3.40. CSF: £5.70.

1.20 (2m 3f hdle) 1, Fryup Satellite (Miss P Robson, 6-1); 2, Duke Of Perth (9-2); 3, Fawley Flyer (5-1). Sudden Spin 9-4 fav. 11 ran. NR: Tristan's Comet. Hd, hd. Mrs J Brown. Tote: £5.30; £1.20, £3.60, £1.50. DF: £14.90. Trio: £48.20. CSF: £32.14. Tricast: £135.72.

1.50 (2m 1f 110yd ch) 1, Gems Lad (R Guest, 9-2); 2, Tico Gold (3-1); 3, Shawwell (3-1). Dorlin Castle 7-4 fav. 6 ran. Hd, 22l. Mrs S Smith. Tote: £4.60; £1.80, £2.20. DF: £5.80. CSF: £17.40.

2.20 (2m 3f hdle) 1, Tirmizi (J Supple, 7-1); 2, Furietto (1-2 fav); 3, Heavens Above (25-1). 10 ran. 5l, 5l. Mrs A Swinbank. Tote: £15.70; £3.70, £1.30, £3.60. DF: £6.90. Trio: £99.30. CSF: £11.77.

2.50 (2m 3f ch) 1, Tim Soldier (R Supple, 25-1); 2, Karenastino (33-1); 3, Rebel King (5-2). Juke Box Billy 7-4 fav. 7 ran. 5l, ¾l. M Barraclough. Tote: £19.40; £4.50, £3.00. DF: £54.40. CSF: £386.88.

3.20 (2m hdle) 1, Last Try (A S Smith, 4-1); 2, Environmental Law (11-2); 3, Highly Charming (20-1). My Shenandoah 3-1 fav. 14 ran. Hd, 6l. B Rothwell. Tote: £4.50; £4.10, £2.60, £3.90. DF: £37.30. Trio: £278.70. CSF: £29.84. Tricast: £401.23.

Placepot: £8,447.70 (part won. Pool of £6,137.16 carried forward to Towcester today).

Quadpot: £468.50.

هكذا في الأصل

FOOTBALL: LIVERPOOL REPLACE ARSENAL AT HEAD OF PREMIERSHIP TABLE AS NEWCASTLE STUMBLE AT COVENTRY

Collymore makes timely amends to patient Evans

By Russell Kempson

LIVERPOOL swept to the top of the FA Carling Premiership, for the first time since September, with an emphatic 4-2 victory against Nottingham Forest at Anfield on Tuesday night. More significant, it appears that Stan Collymore, their enigmatic striker, has recaptured the form that made his partnership with Robbie Fowler such a potent one last season.

Collymore scored two goals against Forest, the club he left 17 months ago for a fee of £8.5 million, and also created another for Fowler indicating, perhaps, that he is prepared to shed his wayward reputation and knuckle down to the task of bringing the Premiership title to Merseyside.

Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, has been forced to drop Collymore three times this season. Club fines have followed for missed training sessions and reserve matches. Yet Evans now believes his patience may have paid off.

"Stan hasn't always helped himself but he seems to be playing with a smile on his face and not with the worries of the world on his shoulders," Evans said. "It's nice to see him get a couple of goals, and set one up for Robbie, but he's got to do it on a consistent basis.

"It's got to be week in, week out, not spasmodic. The opportunity is there for him and he's got to put me in a position where I can't leave him out."

For Frank Clark, the Forest manager, nothing seems to be going right. The club is still in the confused throes of a takeover. Clark's future is the subject of widespread speculation and the defeat at Anfield, combined with Coventry City's surprise 2-1 win against Newcastle United at Highfield Road, sent Forest back to the foot of the Premiership table.

"We were only 2-1 down at half-time and still in it," Clark said. "Then we concede another horrendous goal [when Des Lyttle, the Forest defender, headed into his own net] and helped create problems for ourselves. We finished up being well beaten."

Newcastle's title hopes suffered a further jolt against Coventry, leaving Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, apparently speechless as he made a swift departure from the ground and refused to talk to waiting reporters. His side has taken only three points from their last five matches.

Kevin Richardson, the Coventry midfield player, was not so shy. "Newcastle are still good enough to win the league," Richardson, who was born on Tyneside, said.

"This is just a hiccup for them and teams that win championships always have hiccups. They might have one or two more but they've got some great players and it's really about how they react now.

"They are going to find out that teams who are lower down the table will play twice as hard against them. They have to be resilient and strong, then their ability should shine through."

Richardson pinpointed the absence of David Batty, because of suspension, as the main reason for Newcastle's lacklustre display.

"He's not a glory boy but's he's always available," Richardson said. "He keeps things moving and ticking over, provides the simple passes that might open up situations and gets a foot in here and there. They miss him."

Sheffield United moved into joint leadership of the Nationwide League first division, with Bolton Wanderers, after beating Crystal Palace 1-0 at Selhurst Park. Andy Walker's eleventh goal of the season, shortly before half-time, proved enough.

United's victory was all the more creditable as they were without seven regular first-team players.

"We knew we would have to battle hard but all the lads who came in rolled up their sleeves and did a great job," Howard Kendall, the United manager, said.

Dave Bassett, the Palace manager, was less impressed with his team, which has not won for six matches.

"We were absolutely appalling, we bottled it," he said, after ordering extra training for his players.

Cup victory helps Fry to battle on

By Russell Kempson

BARRY FRY admits that he possibly bit off more than he could chew when joining Peterborough United during the summer but, in typically ebullient style, he refuses to concede defeat. Even an extended run in the FA Cup is unlikely to clear the club's debt, which amounts to about £2.5 million, yet he still retains his renowned optimism.

Peterborough, of the Nationwide League second division, overcame the potentially awkward hurdle of Enfield, from the Icis League premier division, by winning 4-1 in a second-round replay at London Road on Tuesday night. A third-round tie away to Plymouth Argyle is their reward.

"We're desperate for a Cup run," Fry said. "Plymouth should get a gate of around 10,000, so we should make a bit of money as well as having a good chance of going through. I can't stress how important the financial side is."

When Fry, dismissed by Birmingham City in May, swiftly re-emerged at Peterborough as club owner and team manager, he initially believed the club's liabilities were no more than £650,000. He subsequently discovered that the calculations were distinctly on the low side.

The £2.5 million debt is gradually being reduced — Lil Fuccillo and Mick Halsall, the coaches, were among the many cost-cutting casualties — and the sale of Martin O'Connor, the midfield player, to Birmingham for £500,000 has also helped to appease the bank manager.

"I came here as owner but, now I know the true picture, I'm clearly not," Fry said. "But I do feel responsible and if we can cut our cloth accordingly, then I'm sure we can still have a very successful club.

"It has disturbed us all but we're determined to put it right. I've gone without wages for six months and put up a £210,000 guarantee on my house. I don't want to be remembered as the man who came to this club, gave all the promises to the fans and then took it out of existence."

Walsall and Burnley will try again on Monday after their second-round replay at Turf Moor was abandoned at half-time because of an electrical fault that caused the floodlights to fail. Walsall led 1-0 through an eighth-minute goal from Kyle Lightbourne.

"It seems unfair that we'll have to start again at 0-0 after we had worked so hard to get ourselves into a winning position," Chris Nicholl, the Walsall manager, said. The eventual victors will play Liverpool at Anfield.

PHIL COLE / ALLSPORT

Collymore salutes the crowd after scoring Liverpool's first goal in the 4-2 win over Nottingham Forest at Anfield

Smaller clubs may scupper proposals

CLUBS from the second and third divisions of the Nationwide League could disrupt plans to restructure the Football League at an extraordinary general meeting in London today (Russell Kempson writes). Many of the smaller clubs believe that the radical recommendations could give too much power to the larger first division clubs.

If passed, the proposals would see the dismantling of the league's six-man board of directors. It would be replaced by an independently chaired nine-strong body, elected on a regional and divisional basis.

Gordon McKeag, the league president, would stand down as board chairman and relinquish his presidency at the end of the season. The new board would commission an independent report to consider the structure of the league and board.

However, after a preliminary meeting of 32 of the 48 second and third division clubs on Monday, it emerged that at least 13 were prepared to vote against. The proposals need 75 per cent backing to go through, with 19 against constituting a blocking minority.

"Setting up a new board and then commissioning a report is putting the cart before the horse," one chairman said. "What happens if the report comes out against the new structure? It would need a 75 per cent vote to throw it out, but if it has the backing of the first division clubs, they could just ignore the findings."

However, David Sheepshanks, the Ipswich chairman, said: "As far as I'm aware, it is highly likely that these proposals will go through. I believe and hope that, if there are dissenting voices, they will be very few."

[illegible]

FA CUP: Second-round replays: Burnley 0 Walsall 1 (match abandoned at half-time, floodlight failure); Peterborough United 4 Enfield Town 1; Scunthorpe United 2 Wrexham 3 (aet; 2-2 at 90min); Wycombe Wanderers 3 Barnet 2.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Coventry City 2 Newcastle United 1; Liverpool 4 Nottingham Forest 2.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Bradford 0 Reading 0; Crystal Palace 0 Sheffield United 1.

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Southern section: First round: Brighton 3 Fulham 2 (aet; 2-2 at 90min; Brighton win on golden goal).

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Rangers 4 Kilmarnock 2. First division: East Fife 1 Dundee 7.

SPALDING CUP: Quarter-final: Macclesfield 1 Bromsgrove 0.

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying group six: Malta 0 Spain 3.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Derby 0 Everton 3; Oldham 3 Bolton 2. Second division: Grimsby 2 Stockport 1.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Thatcham Town 1 Romsey Town 0.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Bangor City 0 Llansantffraid 2; Newtown 0 Ton Pentre 3.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Blackpool Rovers 1 Trafford 2; Bootle 1 Penrith 4; Vauxhall G M 0 Newcastle Town 1.

ICIS LEAGUE: Guardian Insurance Cup: Third round: Bedford 2 Heybridge Swifts 1 (aet); Kingstonian 2 Banstead 1 (aet); Leighton Town 0 Boreham Wood 2; St Albans 2 Harrow 4; Sutton United 3 Yeading 2; Wokingham 1 Bognor 2. Premier division: Chertsey 2 Carshalton 3. Second division: Edgware 2 Wivenhoe 0; Egham 1 Metropolitan Police 3.

CALOR COUNTY ANTRIM SHIELD: Second round: Glentoran 0 Cliftonville 0 (aet; Cliftonville won 5-4 on pens); Portadown 3 Linfield 2.

FA CARLSBERG VASE: Third-round replays: Saffron Walden 1 Barking 3; Braintree 1 Collier Row and Romford 1.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE CUP: Second round: Nuneaton 1 Burton 2; Redditch United 0 Halesowen 3. Second round replays: Forest Green 4 Trowbridge 2; RC Warwick 2 Worcester 1; Witney 1 Merthyr 2.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: O'Brien/McKenzie Butchers Premier Cup: Quarter-final, first leg: Welwyn Garden City 2 Buckingham Athletic 2.

UNIBOND LEAGUE CUP: Second round: Spennymoor United 4 Harrogate Town 3. Second-round replay: Lincoln United 2 Worksop 1. Third round: Gainsborough Trinity 3 Frickley Ath 0; Matlock 1 Guiseley 4; Radcliffe Borough 2 Barrow 1.

UNIJET SUSSEX LEAGUE: John O'Hara League Cup: Second-round replay: East Grinstead 1 Ringmer 2. Third round: Arundel 3 Selsey 3 (aet). First division: Pagham 3 Shoreham 2; Peacehaven and Telscombe 1 Langney Sports 1.

FAI HARP LAGER LEAGUE CUP: Final, first leg: Galway United 3 Cork City 1.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Arnold 2 Selby 2. Cup: Third round: Armthorpe Welfare 0 Ossett Town 3; Ashfield United 0 Glasshoughton Welfare 1; Blidworth Welfare 1 Brigg Town 1; North Ferriby United 1 Louth United 3; Ossett Albion 0 Hucknall 2; Pontefract Colliery 3 Harrogate Railway 3.

JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: Felixstowe P & T 1 Hadleigh United 1; Great Yarmouth 2 Lowestoft 2; March Town United 0 Newmarket 0; Warboys 3 Watton United 1.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: FA Premier League Trophy: Under-19: Derbyshire 2, Nottinghamshire 4. Under-19 representative match: Essex 0 Australian Tourists 3. Nottingham Hawkins Under-16 Cup: Final: Becket West Bridgford 7 Garibaldy Mansfield 1.

Weather puts a damper on Celtic's tilt for title

By Our Sports Staff

CELTIC'S title challenge was washed out again last night as their away match against Dunfermline Athletic was postponed for the third time. Celtic were left kicking their heels as the East End Park pitch failed a 3pm inspection, five hours before the scheduled kick-off.

Waterlogging put paid to the fixture after incessant rain in the Fife area and across Scotland throughout the day. Ice led to the first call-off on Saturday, November 23. Then, on Tuesday December 3 a blizzard wiped out the game barely 90 minutes before the kick-off.

Celtic were looking to start pegging back a 14-point lead established at the top by Rangers as the Old Firm battle for the championship. East End Park was to have been the first of three matches in hand, with two others, against Kilmarnock and Raith Rovers, rearranged for January 8 and 14 respectively.

No date has yet been arranged for the match, with the Scottish League only able to say it will be "some time in January".

Celtic will now lose Paolo Di Canio for the match against Dundee United at Parkhead on Saturday. Di Canio was about to serve a one-match ban against Raith Rovers last Saturday, but that game was called off because of international calls and it was carried over to last night. Now it has been held over again.

Phil O'Donnell had been expected to make his third appearance of the season at Dunfermline, four months after the first two. Now his comeback could be in front of 50,000 supporters against United on Saturday.

Heart of Midlothian are battling against an injury crisis before the home game against Rangers on Saturday but at least there is some good news about Gary Lock, their captain.

Locke, who sustained knee ligament damage in the Scottish Cup final last May, when Hearts were beaten 5-1 by Rangers, is on the road to recovery. He was due to play today in a reserve match against Kilmarnock at Musselburgh but the match has been postponed.

Jim Jefferies, the Hearts manager, has several doubts for the match against Rangers.

Bruno is suspended, while McPherson and Salvatori are out for long spells. And there There are doubts, too, over Ritchie, McManus, Beckford, McCann and the new signing, Hamilton. However, Rousset, the goalkeeper, is expected to be fit.

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CHANGING TIMES

RUGBY UNION: FORMER ARGENTINA STAND-OFF TAKES DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE IN SEARCH OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Porta pursues strong sporting links

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

ONE by-product of the international between England and Argentina on Saturday was a meeting this week between the ministers for sport of the respective countries. It gave Hugo Porta, the former Argentina stand-off half, who was his country's ambassador in South Africa before taking up his present position, the chance to present to Iain Sproat a framework document designed to encourage sporting contacts.

Sproat, the Minister for Sport, will discuss the document's contents with the Sports Council and the Foreign Office, but a spokesman said it was likely he would be keen to implement some of its suggestions, along similar lines to the technical assistance already rendered to such countries as South Africa.

Porta, in a three-year period of office as his country's Secretary of Sport, seeks to establish a regular series of exchanges, not only in rugby but across the whole sporting spectrum.

The Argentina rugby party was particularly impressed with the reception it received in Plymouth a fortnight ago, before its match with the Combined Services, where guests of honour included the Duke of York, a combatant in the Falklands War 14 years ago, and Simon Weston, the soldier so badly burnt burned during the conflict. Clearly they seek greater contact in rugby terms, at club and provincial level.

Porta perceives sportsmen as offering role models for youngsters. "Sport has to be considered very much in the social context in Argentina," he said, "and the picture of the country has changed a lot since England's last rugby visit, in 1990.

"We have had many technical visitors from Spain and Italy to help our sporting federations. Now that our economic situation has stabilised we are able to plan in the long term, probably as much as 20 years, and our aim is to ensure that all political parties will accept that kind of planning."

The match at Twickenham was televised live in Argentina, where rugby ranks third in popularity, after football and basketball. The reception for the result, 20-18 to England, will have been far warmer than it was here and will encourage hopes of success when England visit next May for a five-match tour, of which two will be internationals.

Nottingham look to Pearce's experience

GARY PEARCE, the former England prop, will make his debut for Nottingham in their Pilkington Cup fifth-round tie against London Scottish at Beeston on Saturday (David Hands writes). Pearce, capped 37 times between 1979 and 1991, joined from Northampton last week and clearly believes — as does another former England prop, Jeff Probyn — that life begins at 40.

Probyn is among Bedford's recruits this season and Pearce will bring a similar weight of experience to Nottingham, who, despite their place at the foot of the Courage Clubs Championship second division, have been encouraged by the deal struck this month with a local business consortium that assures an annual cash injection of £100,000.

Northampton have resigned themselves to being without Matthew Dawson, the England scrum half last season, for two months. Dawson required keyhole surgery on the knee ligaments that he damaged while playing for England A against Argentina last week, and faces a fortnight in plaster and a further two weeks in a leg brace.

The priceless sportsman who gave himself away

David Miller on the Welsh rugby idol whose values personify a bygone era

England continued against Argentina, uncomfortably, to come to terms with a changed team, a changed captain and, most of all, a changed era in the game of rugby union. They are professionals, some earning six-figure sums a year. I wonder if they will experience, and give, the pleasure that personified so much of the era now gone for ever. Certainly they did not last Saturday at Twickenham.

The question is prompted by reading the autobiography of Cliff Morgan, who has been to rugby, and sport, what Danny Blanchflower was to football: skilful, educated, competitive, articulate, sporting, amusing, compassionate, a man of principle. His life, and the way he recounts it, says so much about the values of sport, so many of which have perished in the past 60 years.

The revelation of his story, which Geoffrey Nicholson helps him to tell, is two-fold: that for all his fame, with Cardiff, Wales and the British Isles, and then as broadcaster and Head of Outside Broadcasts for the BBC, he made little money; and that the stroke he suffered in 1972 crippled his movement and his speech more severely than his peripheral friends knew. His successful struggle to recover his faculties was a triumph that exceeded anything he did on the rugby field.

Everything in rugby today has a price tag: an international cap, a club first-team place, a signature, a speech, a "social" appearance. One of Morgan's virtues is the honesty of his self-exposure. "I wanted to be liked ... as a result, I gave myself away." Now 66, having retired in 1958 with 29 Wales caps at stand-off half, a record at the time, he has almost no remaining personal mementos. "I gave away all my souvenirs to better causes than nostalgia," he said.

For years, Cliff, as he is to all, regularly spoke at functions for no more than a slap on the back: for good-time dinner-friends who evaporated when he was sick and broke. It is reassuring to hear of loyal friends such as David Coleman's wife, who helped to nurse him back to health, and benefactors like Jack Solomon, who sent a cheque for £2,000. It was never cashed.

At the time of his stroke, after a commentary for the British Forces Broadcasting Services in Germany, Nuala, his wife, who at one time had to sell her engagement ring to help to balance the books, had to borrow money for the air fare to be at his hospital bedside. And this was a national hero.

In 1955, Morgan starred in the British Isles' 23-22 victory at Ellis Park, Johannesburg, which Danie Craven, the late doyen of South African rugby, regarded as the greatest match played. A crowd of 96,000, in temperatures reaching 80F, saw the *Lions* inspired by the likes of Butterfield, O'Reilly, Phil Davies and Jeeps.

Yet Morgan soberly reflects on the relative standards of then and now; the fact that today's tactical strategic planning has made redundant, sadly, the spontaneity of his time, such as the celebrated instruction of Barry John to the equally legendary Gareth Edwards at scrum half: "You throw it, I'll catch it."

His era, Morgan admits, might physically have matched that of J. P. R. Williams, Bennett, Gerald Davies, John, Edwards and subsequent famous teams, "but we wouldn't have coped at their best. We relied on individualism."

The massive packs of today, with their number-coded lineout and scrummage tactics, would have trampled on Morgan's amateur, and amateurish, contemporaries. "On the 1955 tour, we had no coach, no doctor, no physio. Jeff [Butterfield, at full back], who'd done PE at Loughborough, was in charge of our fitness."

The sense of glory and sportsmanship shines brightly. When Morgan gained his first cap, his mother, scrubbing the kitchen floor at home, leapt to her feet on hearing the radio, forgetting she was under the sink, knocking herself out cold.

Morgan's match "fee" was rather less than for those who walked out last Saturday. His bus fare expenses were four shillings and eight pence (23p).

There are those who think a speech from Cliff Morgan nothing more than another bit of soppy Welsh romanticism. For some of us, the music of his chorister's voice, the passion for the poetry of words that he learnt at school, in libraries — "a smell as distinctive as the smell of Africa", it seldom fails to touch the heart.

☐ *Beyond The Fields Of Play*, by Cliff Morgan with Geoffrey Nicholson (Hodder and Stoughton, £18.99).

EQUESTRIANISM

Late entry makes early impact with victory on Scandal

By JENNY MACARTHUR

PAUL DARRAGH, of Ireland, who gained a last-minute entry to the Olympia Show Jumping championships after winning the World Cup qualifier in Seville ten days ago, made a rousing start to the show when he and the eight-year-old, Scandal, relegated Michael Whitaker, of Britain, on Ashley, to second place in the opening Christmas Candle Stakes by 1.82sec.

The Australian-bred Scandal is one of two horses that Darragh is training for Princess Haya, of Jordan, in the hope that one of them will be suitable for her to ride at the Olympic Games in Sydney. Darragh rates his Seville winner, Sarah, a more suitable ride for his pupil but, in January, he was reluctantly persuaded to buy the thoroughbred Scandal. "She told me that every Princess should have a scandal," Darragh said.

The organisers' decision to make the opening class at Olympia one of three qualifying events for the inaugural Vink Masters tonight, which offers a maximum possible prize of £21,000, produced a heightened sense of occasion.

Rodrigo Pessoa, of Brazil, a team bronze medal-winner in Atlanta, gained the first clear round on Loro Piana Bianca D'Amory. Whitaker, riding in the maroon colours of his new sponsor, Virtual Village, promptly knocked more than two seconds off his time with a faultless performance on Ashley.

Darragh, who is competing at the show for the first time since 1982, took up the challenge. Scandal is not an easy mare — she had to stop racing at five when she refused to load into the starting stalls — but she is not short on ability. Darragh turned her in so sharply to the eighth fence that she had to jump from two strides, a feat that drew instant applause from the spectators. Romping home in a time of 52.94sec Darragh confirmed that she is "nothing if not genuine".

Sloothaak, whose German-bred mare Weihaiwej — the horse on which he became world champion — would be well suited to The Masters competition, made a bold attempt to match Darragh's time but finished some three seconds adrift. His compatriot, Ludger Beerbaum, the former Olympic champion, had a steadier clear round on the German-bred Future, finishing in seventh place.

Nick Skelton, of Britain, who was given a rapturous reception by the crowd, dropped out of contention when his new Dutch-bred horse, Virtual Village Zalza, incurred four faults at the second fence. Geoff Billington, Britain's highest-placed rider in Atlanta, found himself out of step with Solitaire, who had eight faults over the 11-fence course.

Earlier, Pippa Funnell, the event rider, survived her worst attack of nerves since her Badminton debut to win The Petplan Family Pairs Relay with her husband, William. Going first in the competition, for which riders had to qualify in events held throughout the year, Pippa jumped a fast clear round on Ann Burnet's The Tourmaline Rose before handing over the baton to William.

He rode a blistering round on his top showjumper, Comex, to finish in 66.26sec.

Alison Bradley, Nick Skelton's former stable jockey, riding with her fiancée, Michael Jones, took second place. Louise and Robert Whitaker, the children of the international showjumper, John Whitaker, did superbly to come third.

RESULTS

The Christmas Candle Stakes: 1, Scandal (P Darragh, Ire) 0 faults in 52.94; 2, Virtual Village Asley (M Whitaker, GB) 0 in 54.76; 3, San Patrignano Weihaiwej (F Sloothaak, Ger) 0 in 55.98. The Petplan Family Pairs Relay: 1, The Tourmaline Rose (P Funnell) and Comex (W Funnell) 66.26; 2, Arron (A Bradley) and Gordon's Twist (M Jones) 69.93; 3, Cowboy Magic Deep Heat (L Whitaker) and Virtual Village Silver Cinders (R Whitaker) 70.83.

JULIAN HERBERT

Pessoa, of Brazil, gaining the first clear round on Loro Piana Bianca D'Amroy

SPORT IN BRIEF

Women's tour goes east for new season

THE European women's golf tour will break new ground next year, with tournaments in Turkey, Poland and the Czech Republic. However, there will be no Welsh, Spanish or Sicilian Opens. Another new event is the world matchplay championship, to be staged at a venue yet to be decided, from October 2 to 5, the week before the well-established men's equivalent at Wentworth.

SCHEDULE: May 8-11: Estoril Open. 15-18: Tour Players' Classic, The Tytherington, Macclesfield. 22-25: Czech Republic Open, Prague. 29-Jun 1: Polish Open, Miedzyzdroje. June: 6-8: Ford-Stimorol Danish Open, Vejle. 12-15: Dadson Swiss Open, Lausanne. 18-21: Evian Masters, France. 26-29: Hennessy Cup, Cologne. July 3-6: Austrian Open, venue to be announced. 24-27: German Open, Hamburg. August 7-10: McDonald's WPGA championship of Europe, Gleneagles. 14-17: Weetabix Women's British Open, Sunningdale. 21-24: Compaq Open, Stockholm. 28-31: Marks and Spencer European Open, venue tba. September 4-7: French Open, Paris. 11-14: English Open, venue tba. 18-21: Guardian Irish Open, venue tba. 25-28: Turkish Open, Antalya. October 2-5: World matchplay championship, venue tba. 24-26: Air France Open de Deauville

England moving up

FOOTBALL: England are twelfth in the final monthly world rankings of the year issued by Fifa, the ruling body. The position represents no change from November, but signifies a rise of nine places from the position of 21st they held at the end of 1995, a move made possible by reaching the semi-finals of the European championship.

LEADING RANKINGS: 1, Brazil. 2, Germany. 3, France. 4, Colombia. 5, Czech Republic. 6, Denmark. 7, Russia. 8, Spain. 9, Holland. 10, Italy. 11, Mexico. 12, England. 13, Portugal. 14, Norway. 15, Bulgaria. 16, Romania. 17, Sweden. 18, United States. 19, South Africa. 20, Zambia. Others: 29, Scotland. 32, Ireland. 64, Northern Ireland. 80, Wales.

Harris answers call

RUGBY LEAGUE: Iestyn Harris, of Warrington, and Chris Smith, of Castleford, have answered the call from Andy Gregory, the Great Britain nines coach. Gregory named a 14-strong party on Friday for the World Super League Nines competition starting on January 31 in Australia, only to find two key members of the squad have withdrawn through injury. Paul Sculthorpe, the Warrington forward, and Tony Smith, the Castleford half back, will undergo operations soon.

Cazalet captures title

RACKETS: Edward Cazalet, of Eton, won the public schools championship colts' event with an impressive victory over Rupert Wilcox, of Harrow, despite dropping the opening game. Cazalet, the losing finalist in the junior colts event last year and a member of a well-known rackets-playing dynasty, looked the most stylish player of his age group. Guy Smith-Bingham, his fellow Etonian, had an easier passage to the final of the Foster Cup senior championship, defeating David Hill in straight games.

Indurain bides his time

CYCLING: Miguel Induráin, five times a winner of the Tour de France, may retire next season if the Once team cannot raise $10 million (about £6 million) from sponsorship to pay his salary. It was reported yesterday that the Spaniard, 32, had refused to re-sign for his Banesto team and was negotiating with Once, whose leading riders are the Frenchman, Laurent Jalabert, and Alex Zulle, of Switzerland. The Madrid daily newspaper, *El Pais*, claimed that Induráin would compete in the Tour de France and Tour of Spain next year if he joined Once.

Campbell a union man

RUGBY UNION: Stewart Campbell has become the latest leading player to sign a full-time contract with the Scottish Rugby Union. The move brings the number of "professional" players on the union's books to 45. The 24-year-old Melrose lock, who has won 13 Scotland caps, resumed playing recently after suffering a knee injury at the beginning of the season.

BOXING

Golota may agree to a bout of psychoanalysis

ANDREW GOLOTA is hoping to revive his career with a match against another former world heavyweight champion, but only after a bout of psychoanalysis. Golota has admitted he may take up the suggestion by Lou Duva, his co-trainer, of seeing a psychiatrist after being disqualified for the second time in five months against Riddick Bowe for a series of low blows.

The Chicago-based Pole is still unable to explain his moment of madness when he was one round away from a near-certain victory on Saturday.

Golota, who was nursing a burst eardrum from the bout, said he would welcome the chance of meeting Tim Witherspoon, the former World Boxing Council and World Boxing Association champion. He said: "I want to fight the best and not waste time on those who are just climbing the rankings."

SNOOKER: ELECTION COULD TRANSFORM ROLE OF GOVERNING BODY

Doyle prepared to support Williams

By PHIL YATES

THE most bitter power struggle in the politically turbulent history of snooker comes to a head today with what is expected to be a stormy annual meeting of the governing body, the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA), at the Marriott Hotel, Bristol.

Two members of the WPBSA board of directors, John Spencer and Bill Oliver, were originally up for re-election, but last month Spencer, a board member for 25 years, resigned from that seat and from the chairmanship of the association.

Before stepping down, Spencer had been heavily criticised by Ian Doyle, the outspoken manager of Stephen Hendry and head of the Team GdeZ Capital stable, which includes 11 other leading players.

Doyle, who is scathing about the board, believes that the game would greatly benefit from the introduction of a management structure that would remove its day-to-day running from the hands of retired players, who make up the majority of WPBSA directors. This would reduce the board's number of meetings and transform its role into that of watchdog.

To this end, Doyle is supporting Rex Williams, a former WPBSA chairman, for election. Williams has declared an intention, if successful, to institute a personnel overhaul and make the appointment of a chief executive his top priority.

Those opposed to the present administration point to dissent on a number of fronts, particularly the failure to attract sponsorship for two recent events, the Grand Prix and United Kingdom championship, which both received extensive coverage by the BBC.

☐ Paul Hunter, 18, of Leeds, has been awarded the sponsor's wild-card invitation to compete in the Benson and Hedges Masters at Wembley Conference Centre in February.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Indiana 103 Miami 89; Toronto 97 New Jersey 88; New York 99 Utah 94; Charlotte 93 Philadelphia 84; Chicago 129 LA Lakers 123 (OT); Atlanta 109 Dallas 73; Seattle 123 Golden State 83; Vancouver 93 Houston 92.

BOXING

DONCASTER: Commonwealth featherweight championship (12rnds): Jon Jo Irwin (Doncaster, holder) bt Rick Rayner (Aus) pts. Featherweight (6rnds): Richard Evatt (Coventry) bt Andrew Robinson (Birmingham) rsc 2nd. Cruiserweight (6rnds): Darren Corbett (Belfast) bt Chris Woollas (Doncaster) rsc 3rd.

BETHNAL GREEN: Southern area light-heavyweight championship (12rnds): Monty Wright (Stevenage) bt Eddie Knight (Ashford) rsc 5th. Welterweight (6rnds): Pat Wright (Cambridge) bt Gary Hiscox (Dudley) pts. Bantamweight (10rnds): Johnny Armour (Chatham) bt Lyndon Kershaw (Halifax) rsc 8th.

CRICKET

PERTH: Mercantile Mutual Cup (50 overs): Western Australia 210-9 (T M Moody 102 not out). South Australia 171 (Moody 4-30).

EQUESTRIANISM

OLYMPIA: Olympia Championships: Christmas Candle Stakes: 1, Scandal (P Darragh, Ire) clear, 52.94sec; 2, Virtual Village Ashley (M Whitaker, GB) clear, 54.76; 3, San Patrignano Weihaiwej (F Sloothaak, Ger) clear, 55.98. Petplan Family Pairs Relay: 1, The Tourmaline Rose (P Funnell) and Comex (W Funnell) 66.26sec; 2, Arron (A Bradley) and Gordon's Twist (M Jones) 69.93; 3, Cowboy Magic Deep Heat (L Whitaker) and Virtual Village Silver Cinders (R Whitaker) 70.83.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Hartford 5 St Louis 3; NY Islanders 4 Los Angeles 3; Boston 6 Pittsburgh 4; Colorado 4 Detroit 3; Phoenix 4 Washington 3; Toronto 6 San Jose 3.

MOSCOW: Izvestia Cup: Canada 1 Sweden 5; Russia 3 Finland 1

NAGANO: Nagano Cup: Finland 7 France 0; Japan 4 Canada 4 (Japan won 1-0 in penalty shootout).

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: Public Schools championship: Colts (Incledon-Webber Cup): Final: E Cazalet (Eton) bt R Wilcox (Harrow) 13-18, 15-7, 15-1, 15-4. Seniors (Foster Cup): Semi-finals: G Smith-Bingham (Eton) bt D Hill (Malvern) 15-9, 15-10, 17-14; A Titchener-Barrett (Harrow) bt A Clowes (Wellington) 15-2, 15-4, 13-15, 15-10. Renny Cup: Semi-finals: C Wilson (Harrow) bt N Parkinson (Harrow) 15-13, 12-15, 15-6, 15-12; S Fairbairn (Cheltenham) bt T Seymour Mead (Malvern) 15-3, 15-9, 15-7.

NORDIC SKIING

OBERSTDORF: World Cup: Cross country: Men (30km): 1, B Daehlie (Nor) 1hr 20min 13.3sec; 2, E Jevne (Nor) 1:20:57.5; 3, S Sivertsen (Nor) 1:21:24.5; 4, V Ulvang (Nor) 1:21:31.8; 5, M Myllyla (Fin) 1:22:05.7; 6, O Skaanes (Nor) 1:22:38.2. Overall World Cup positions: 1, Daehlie 313pts; 2, F Valbusa (It) 203; 3, Myllyla 190; 4, Jevne 180; 5, K Skjeldal (Nor) 152; 6, J Isometsa (Fin) 147. Women (10km): 1, T Dybendahl (Nor) 29:23.1; 2, B Martinsen (Nor) 29:47.5; 3, A Moen-Guidon (Nor) 29:49.2; 4, M Mikkelsplass (Nor) 30:04.1; 5, O Danilova (Russ) 30:30.4; 6, L Yegorova (Russ) 30:30.7. Overall World Cup positions: 1, S Belmondo (It) 309; 2, Y Valbe (Russ) 292; 3, N Gavrilyuk (Russ) 206; 4, Yegorova 171; 5, Dybendahl 157; 6, Danilova 146.

RUGBY UNION

PILKINGTON CUP: Fourth round: Lydney 15 Newbury 28 (Newbury away to Leicester).

HART GILMORE FOUR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP: Worcester and Hereford 27 Shropshire 13.

SQUASH

SUPER LEAGUE: Quarter-finals: Tamworth Street Motors Duffield 1 Dunraven Windows Maesteg 2 (Duffield names first: A Abou Taleb bt P Gregory 9-7, 7-9, 9-5, 9-7; C Leach lost to M Cairns 3-9, 5-9, 7-9; J Russell lost to C van der Wath 9-5, 5-9, 3-9, 4-9); Denham Wine Queens Halifax 1 Manchester Northern 2 (Halifax names first: D Campion lost to D Ryan 6-9, 7-9, 5-9; A Toes bt P Johnson 3-9, 7-9, 9-7, 9-7, 9-6; M Blowers lost to N Taylor 7-9, 9-8, 3-9, 9-8, 7-9); Broxbourne 0 Ellis Stockbrokers Lingfield 3 (Broxbourne names first: R Durbach lost to P Nicol 2-9, 4-9, 6-9; S Cowie lost to S Meads 2-9, 7-9, 9-7, 5-9; P Gunter lost to T Garner 6-9, 7-9, 4-9); Bishop's Stortford 0 ICL LionHerts 3 (Bishop's Stortford J Nicolle lost to C Walker 8-10, 5-9, 9-7, 6-9; R Godden lost to D Jenson 6-9, 6-9, 9-7, 4-9; B Ford lost to J Wellings 9-5, 7-9, 4-9, 5-9)

TENNIS

MIAMI BEACH: Rolex Orange Bowl: Boys: Singles: Third round: Under-18: M Lee (GB) bt Emin Agaev, Canada, 6-2, 6-4. Under-16: S Dickson (GB) bt J Haehnel (Fr) 6-2, 6-4. D Sherwood (GB) bt N Fracassi (It) 7-6, 5-4, ret.

POOLS DIVIDENDS

LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance (two dividends only): 24pts £140.85, 23 £5.90. Half-time: £250,000. Four draws: £1.95. 10 homes (paid on nine): £127.90. Five aways: £8,044.

VERNONS: Treble chance: 24pts £43.55, 23 £2.60. Two dividends only (See rule 4 4). Third dividend cancelled as it would have been less than £1.00. These monies included in remaining dividends. Premier 10: £428.95.

ZETTERS: Treble chance (two dividends only): 24pts £11.40, 23 £0.60. Four draws: £3.40. Eight homes (paid on seven): £22.40. Four aways (paid on three): £28.60. Super 7: £190.20. First 8: 15pts £345.30, 14 £3.90, 13 £1.05. Lucky numbers: 28 10 13 26 7 35.

THE TIMES SPORTS SERVICE

RACING

Commentary

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Results

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FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Arsenal v Wimbledon (2.0); Southampton v West Ham (at Staplewood, Marchwood)

PONTINS LEAGUE CUP: Group three: Stockport v Stoke (at Stoke City FC, 7.0). Group four: Scunthorpe v Grimsby (7.0).

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Home Farm v Shamrock (7.45).

FA YOUTH CUP: Second-round replay: Luton v Oxford United.

SCHOOLS MATCH: English Schools Fujifilm Trophy: Fourth round: South Cheshire v Halton (7.0).

OTHER SPORT

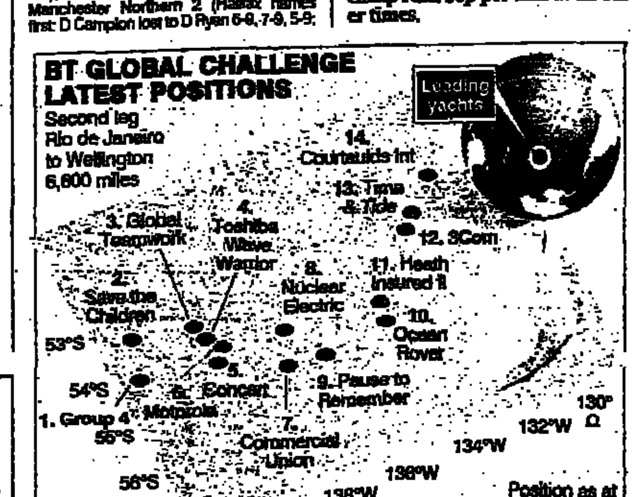
EQUESTRIANISM: Olympia Championships (at Olympia).

POOL: Mosconi Cup: Europe v America nine-ball challenge (at Dagenham).

SWIMMING: ASA national winter championship (at Sheffield).

BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE LATEST POSITIONS

Second leg Rio de Janeiro to Wellington 6,600 miles



Position as at 13.56GMT yesterday

DISTANCE TO WELLINGTON: 1, Group 4 1,908 miles; 2, Save The Children 1,915; 3, Global Teamwork 1,977; 4, Toshiba Wave Warrior 1,983; 5, Concert 1,985; 6, Motorola 1,989; 7, Commercial Union 2,046; 8, Nuclear Electric 2,055; 9, Pause To Remember 2,081; 10, Ocean Rover 2,150; 11, Heath Insured II 2,152; 12, 3Com 2,217; 13, Time & Tide 2,226; 14, Courtaulds International 2,263.

Do you believe in Father Christmas?

Find out today, 12.25pm on Channel 4

U.M.

SPEEDWAY

Skegness turning to cinders

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

SPEEDWAY in Great Britain will undergo a revamp next season with the formation of a new Elite League. Eleven clubs have applied for membership and there could be another 14 tracks operating in the Premier League as racing is planned for every day during the summer.

"It is tremendous news that we will have more than two dozen tracks operating in 1997," Terry Russell, the chairman of the British Speedway Promoters' Association, said yesterday.

"Last season, speedway was successfully launched at Ryde and next season we have three completely new tracks applying for membership — Newport and Skegness in the Premier League, and St Austell in the Conference League — and at least five others returning to league racing. We haven't experienced that sort of expansion since the formation of two divisions in 1968 and there's no reason why there shouldn't be even more new tracks in the future."

Two of the Premier League tracks last season — London and Middlesbrough — have been forced out because their stadiums have been sold. Middlesbrough's owner, Malcolm Wright, has applied to put his licence on hold for 12 months in the hope that he can find a new stadium on Teesside and return in 1998.

Ten of the remaining 17 Premier League tracks have applied for Elite League status, along with King's Lynn, who had a year-long "sabbatical" when the future of their stadium was in doubt. Arena Essex and Berwick are stepping up to the Premier League from the Conference League.

ELITE LEAGUE: Belle Vue Bradford, Coventry, Cradley Heath, Eastbourne, Ipswich, King's Lynn, Peterborough, Poole, Swindon, Wolverhampton.

PREMIER LEAGUE: Arena Essex, Berwick, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Hull, Long Eaton, Newcastle, Newport, Oxford, Reading, Sheffield, Skegness, Stoke.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

In Goulash, each player arranges his hand from the previous deal into suits; then they are dealt out in groups, most commonly two rounds of five cards at a time followed by a round of three cards. As a result some wild distributions occur.

Dealer South **East-West game** **Goulash**

♠ K Q J 4
♥ Q 10 3
♦ A K Q J 5
♣ 4

♠ —
♥ 9 8 5 2
♦ —
♣ K Q J 10 9 8 7 5 2

N
W E
S

♠ A 9 8 7 6 5
♥ —
♦ 10 9 8 7 6 4 3
♣ —

♠ 10 3 2
♥ A K J 7 6 4
♦ 2
♣ A 6 3

S	W	N	E
1 H	Pass	3 D	Pass
3 H	Pass	3 S	Pass
3 NT	Pass	5 H	Pass
7 H	Pass	Pass	Dble
All Pass			

Contract: Seven Hearts doubled, by South. Lead: king of clubs

South was David Davenport, a leading Portland Club player. The bidding needs some explanation. First, West's silence on his nine clubs looks very odd. But sometimes players do that in Goulies, hoping to spring to life later on. In my view it is mistaken tactics.

North's bidding was completely natural. At the Portland Club neither Blackwood nor cue-bids are allowed, so there was no way South could find out whether his partner had the ace of spades. Hence his optimistic jump to Seven Hearts.

When East failed to ruff the opening lead it was obvious that his double must have been based on holding the ace of spades. At this point declarer has a complete picture of the hand — West is marked with nine clubs and all the hearts, so he must be void in both spades and diamonds.

So Davenport ruffed a club in dummy at trick two. He did not have the communication to ruff another club, but he simply ran his trumps throwing all dummy's spades. In the five-card ending East could not keep five diamonds and the ace of spades.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

DITTOGRAPHY
a. Agreement
b. Mirror writing
c. Mistaken repetition

FOLIE DE DOUTE
a. Extravagance
b. Obsessive doubt
c. A Tyrolean Château

EPIGAMIC
a. Attractive
b. A lyric metre
c. Sarcastic

RUDERAL
a. Impolite
b. To do with tails
c. Living on rubbish

Answers on page 38

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Kasparov leads

In round seven at Las Palmas all games were decisive. Kasparov defeated Ivanchuk to take the sole lead while Anand beat Karpov with a possibly unsound piece sacrifice. Topalov scored his first win, downing Kramnik.

White: Garry Kasparov
Black: Vassily Ivanchuk
Las Palmas, December 1996

Alekhine's Defence

1	e4	Nf6
2	e5	Nd5
3	d4	d6
4	Nf3	g6
5	Bc4	c6
6	0-0	Bg7
7	h3	0-0
8	exd6	exd6
9	Re1	Nc7
10	Bg5	Bf6
11	Bh6	Re8
12	Rxe8+	Nxe8
13	Bb3	d5
14	c4	dxc4
15	Bxc4	Nd6
16	Bb3	Nf5
17	Qd2	Nd7
18	Nc3	Nxh6
19	Qxh6	Nf8
20	Rd1	Be6
21	d5	cxd5
22	Nxd5	Rc8
23	Qe3	b6
24	Ne5	Rc5
25	Ng4	Bxg4
26	hxg4	Kg7
27	f4	h6
28	f5	g5
29	Qe2	Nh7
30	Nxf6	Qxf6
31	Rd7	Re5
32	Rxf7+	Qxf7
33	Qxe5+	Qf6
34	Qc7+	Kh8
35	Kh1	a5
36	Be6	Nf8
		Black resigns

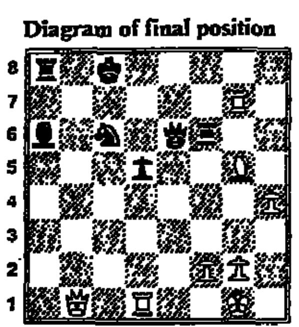
White: Viswanathan Anand
Black: Anatoly Karpov Las Palmas, December 1996

Queen's Gambit Accepted

1	Nf3	d5
2	d4	e6
3	c4	dxc4
4	e4	b5
5	a4	c6
6	axb5	cxb5
7	b3	Bb7
8	bxc4	Bxe4
9	cxb5	Nf6
10	Be2	Be7
11	0-0	0-0
12	Nc3	Bb7
13	Ne5	a6
14	Bf3	Nd5
15	Nxd5	exd5
16	Rb1	Qb6
17	Be2	axb5
18	Rxb5	Qc7
19	Bf4	Bd6
20	Bd3	Ba6
21	Bxh7+	Kxh7
22	Qh5+	Kg8
23	Rb3	Bxe5
24	Rh3	f6
25	dxe5	Qe7
26	Qh7+	Kf7
27	Rg3	Ke8
28	Rxg7	Qe6
29	exf6	Nc6
30	Ra1	Kd8
31	h4	Bb7
32	Rd1	Ba6
33	Qb1	Rxf6
34	Bg5	Kc8

Black lost on time

Diagram of final position

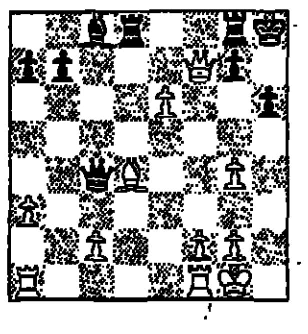


☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Sariego — Medina, Matanzas 1995. How did White combine his two big trumps — the powerful bishop on d4 and the passed pawn on e6, to score a quick win?



Solution on page 38

[illegible] 150

هكذا في الاصل

Vanishing act has transformed sport's great variety show

Bygone days when success was all round

BRYANT'S EYE

It is always sad to witness the extinction of a vanishing species. Within living memory the sporting landscape of Britain was well-stocked with a breed that is rarely, if ever, glimpsed today — the Great All-Rounder.

This magnificent beast traditionally roamed the playing-fields and tracks of the land, wielding a bat in the summer, kicking a ball in the winter, occasionally pulling on spikes to challenge a world record or stripping off to swim Niagara Falls.

You might, today, spot a young example of the breed — a lad such as Liam (son of Ian) Botham. He has the body, he has the pedigree. A fine ball-player, he took five wickets for 67 in his county championship debut for Hampshire against Middlesex last August.

His announcement that he has chosen to forgo a career in cricket to concentrate on professional rugby union with West Hartlepool suggests that the tradition of the great all-rounder may have gone the way of the woolly mammoth. Money, television and ever-tougher competition have changed the habitat too much.

The young Botham is a living, and some would say sad, example of how sport has developed. The Victorian pioneers had a horror of over-specialisation. Their hero, their role model, was the well-rounded man, the man who could turn his hand to many sports and go on to distinguish himself in the world beyond, running an empire or winning a war.

Sporting history is littered with the achievements of their heirs. Denis Compton was one such multi-talented sportsman, spending his summers batting for Middlesex and England, his winters playing for Arsenal and England in wartime internationals. In his debut at rugby he scored most of the tries and kicked all of the goals. His older brother, Leslie, also played football for Arsenal and England and cricket for Middlesex.

> 'The tradition may have gone the way of the woolly mammoth'

The England cricket captain, Brian Close, played centre forward for Arsenal and Leeds United. Geoff Hurst, hero of the 1966 England World Cup team, once played cricket for Essex and his West Ham United team-mate, Jim Standen, turned out regularly for Worcestershire. Ian Botham, who represented England in 102 Test matches, took the field for Scunthorpe United. His old rival, Viv Richards, played football for Antigua in the qualifying rounds of the 1978 World Cup.

In his book *Corinthians and Cricketers*, Edward Grayson lists players who represented England at both football and cricket. They are a formidable bunch, with C. B. Fry and Harry Makepeace among them, but they stop in the 1950s with Willie Watson (of Sunderland and Yorkshire) and Arthur Milton (Arsenal, Bristol City and Gloucestershire).

If you want to meet the real giant all-rounders, you have to go even farther back.

Greatest of them all is usually reckoned to be Fry, equally at home swinging a cricket bat, defending a football goal or sprinting down a long jump runway. He captained England at cricket and appeared in 26 Test matches. He played football for England and turned out as a full back for Southampton in the 1902 FA Cup Final.

In rugby, he played as a threequarter for Blackheath and the Barbarians. He missed the first modern Olympic Games in Athens in 1896 because nobody told him it was on, but he had already set a world long jump record with a leap of 23ft 6in, almost three feet farther than the winning Olympic jump.

He also excelled at boxing, swimming, shooting and fishing and was famously offered the crown of Albania, which he turned down.

A rival to Fry for the title of greatest all-rounder might be Willy Grenfell, the first Lord Desborough. As a student at Oxford he was president of both the athletic club and the boat club. He rowed twice in the university crew against Cambridge and the first time, in 1877, he pulled off the astonishing feat of running, on the day before the Boat Race, in the three-mile track race against Cambridge.

Later he stroked an eight across the Channel (each crew member had a jamjar to bail out water) and crossed it alone in a light racing skiff. He was an expert swimmer, who swam Niagara, not once, but twice — the second time in a snowstorm to prove to a sceptic that he had done it the first.

Desborough won national titles at fencing and punting, he fenced internationally for England at the age of 50, was feared at tennis and cricket, climbed the Matterhorn by three different routes and was chief organiser of the Olympic Games in London in 1908.

Some rare specimens of the great all-rounder were still said to be roaming freely in Britain as late as the 1950s.

Perhaps the last real sighting was that of Major Henry Lawrence Fleming (Indian Army, retired). In 1949 he won the Royal Automobile Club's open snooker championship exactly 40 years after he had taken the English amateur billiards title. Fleming had been a champion schoolboy athlete, once winning seven titles in an afternoon. He represented Scotland at cricket, became Scottish tennis champion and was picked for his country at rugby.

Fleming then became India's billiards and tennis champion, one of its leading rifle shots and a famous polo player. He excelled at cycle racing, running and steeplechasing. When he won his open snooker championship he was playing off a golf handicap of ten and was 84 years old.

Has anyone spotted a genuine Great All-Rounder since Fleming? Or is the breed really quite extinct?

JOHN BRYANT

PHOTOGRAPHS: OWEN HUMPHREY AND PETER NICHOLLS

Changing times persuaded Liam Botham to join West Hartlepool at the expense of a career in cricket

Three of the best: from the left, Compton, Desborough and, perhaps the greatest of them all, Fry

SQUASH

Maesteg saved by Cairns

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

LAUNCHED as a showdown between the full-time touring professionals of the Super Squash League and the mainly domestic luminaries of the SRA National Squash League, the SSL Cup has boiled down, after the quarter-finals this week, to a battle of the big guns.

Although the National League squads had home advantage, only Duffield managed to carry their SSL visitors into a second-string deciding rubber, with Adham Aboutaleb surprising the Greece No 1, Paul Gregory, 9-7, 7-9, 9-5, 9-7 in the first-string rubber against Dunraven Maesteg.

Craig van der Wath, of South Africa, put the Welsh side level by resisting a spirited third-string challenge from 18-year-old John Russell 5-9, 9-5, 9-3, 9-4, leaving Mark Cairns, the England No 3, to secure the semi-final place for Maesteg by beating Clive Leach 9-3, 9-5, 9-7.

Manchester Northern won their quarter-final against Queen's Sports Club, at Halifax, with Derek Ryan, the champion of Ireland, and Nick Taylor, the European champion of champions, allowing Paul Johnson the luxury of losing the dead rubber to Adam Toes.

ICL LionHerts, the defending SSL Cup holders, and Ellis Stockbrokers Lingfield gained straightforward victories, over Bishop's Stortford and Broxbourne respectively, to take their places in the finals weekend at Lingfield, Surrey, on May 3-4.

That weekend should see three of the England team that won the world team championship facing a far more demanding confrontation against the best of the rest of the world. Chris Walker, Del Harris and Mark Chaloner, who were all in England's world championship squad, play for ICL, while Lingfield are led by the world No 2, Rodney Eyles, of Australia, and the world No 3, Peter Nicol, of Scotland.

Before the SSL Cup is settled, however, the Super Squash League swings into full action on January 6, with Surbiton joining the race with a squad headed by Jansher Khan, the world champion, Ross Norman, the former world champion, Simon Parke, the former world junior champion, and Julien Bonetat, the champion of France.

Results, page 37

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page *37*

DITTOGRAPHY

(c) A mistake in writing or printing, in which a letter, syllable, word or words are written twice. From the Greek. The opposite is *haplography*, in which a letter, syllable, word or words are omitted, usually because the scribe's eye jumps to the same word farther down what is being copied. *Unundulating* might be a dittography for *undulating*. On the other hand, *undulating* could be a haplography for *unundulating*.

FOLIE DE DOUTE

(b) Pathologically obsessive doubt about anything and everything. The most touching and whimsical of neuroses. *Anomalies and Curiosities of Medicine*: "Hammond relates the history of a case in an intelligent man who in undressing for bed would spend an hour or two determining whether he should first take off his coat or his shoes."

EPIGAMIC

(a) Attractive to the opposite sex. From the Greek. It must be an instance of the tricky divine sense of humour that so many homosexual men are also epigamic.

RUDERAL

(c) Thriving in rubbish or waste. Usually a botanical term, but with potential for the animal world. "He's had a truly ruderal career, you know. First as a research assistant to a backbencher, then as speech-writer, and now as executive assistant for the party leader."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Bxg7+1 Rxg7 2 e7 leaves Black without a decent reply.

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SWIMMING

Rolph takes French leave

BY CRAIG LORD

THE PRESSURE placed on Susan Rolph by swimming officials and television representatives to compete at the British winter championships, which start in Sheffield today, has failed to yield a result, with the double European short-course champion opting to swim for Clichy, her French club, in Paris instead.

Rolph's decision was taken, in part, for personal reasons, her grandmother having died. She heard the news after returning from Germany on Monday, where she won the 100 metres and 200 metres medley titles and equalled the European record (officially a "best time" until the standard is bettered) over 200 metres at the European short-course championships.

The funeral is on Friday, so Rolph, 18, would miss the qualifying heats of events for which the finals will be held on Saturday. That would leave her only the Sunday races, so she has opted to honour her contract with Clichy, which paid her a £1,500 signing-on fee and gives her around £700 each time she competes for the club.

Rolph did not take kindly to efforts by the BBC and the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) to persuade her that she should go to Sheffield. She said: "I really don't need this kind of pressure. It would have been impossible to get to Friday's heats, so there's no point in going to Sheffield. I also have my French contract to think about."

Her absence from Sheffield is a blow to the championships. On her form, Rolph could have been expected to provide fierce competition for Karen Pickering, whose British 100 metres freestyle record she missed by 0.07sec when winning the silver medal in Germany.

Pickering was not concerned with news of her rival's trip to France, however. Her own form is ailing after a six-week break after the Olympic Games and a car crash last month.

The championships will provide the first British champion for many a decade: until this year the event has long been the ASA winter championships, the ASA being the governing body for England. The word "British" was deemed to be more marketable.

Paul Palmer makes his first appearance since winning the silver medal in the 400 metres freestyle in Atlanta.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
ANDORRA								
Soldeu	30	150	good	varied	good	sun	3	9/12
(Good skiing on well prepared pistes: all runs open)								
AUSTRIA								
Kitzbühel	10	40	fair	varied	fair	cloud	2	14/12
(Heavier conditions with milder air: 39/60 lifts open)								
Mayrhofen	5	70	fair	varied	closed	cloud	6	16/12
(Generally good despite mild weather; everything open)								
Obergurgl	*70*	*170*	*good*	*varied*	*good*	*cloud*	*-1*	*18/12*
(Very good skiing but poor visibility)								
Saalbach	35	60	fair	varied	fair	cloud	1	2/12
(Good skiing available: all lifts open)								
FRANCE								
Avoriaz	120	150	good	varied	good	fine	2	14/12
(Good skiing in warm sunny weather)								
Megève	70	140	good	heavy	good	fine	4	13/12
(Generally good skiing but snow sticky low down)								
Meribel	80	120	good	varied	good	fine	3	14/12
(Very good skiing most runs: Tois Vallees links open)								
S Chevalier	75	215	good	varied	good	fine	5	13/12
(Excellent skiing, particularly above 1,800m)								
ITALY								
Cervinia	120	250	good	varied	good	fine	0	14/12
(Excellent piste skiing in bright sunshine)								
Cortina	10	80	good	varied	art	fair	2	13/12
(Good skiing above 1,500m: most lifts open)								
Livigno	100	240	good	open	varied	sun	-1	14/12
(Superb sunny skiing conditions)								
SWITZERLAND								
Klosters	40	135	good	varied	fair	fine	4	2/12
(Good skiing on majority of pistes: 46/55 lifts open)								
Mürren	60	120	good	varied	good	fine	3	14/12
(All 12 lifts open, great piste skiing)								
Verbier	70	240	good	varied	good	fine	2	14/12
(Generally excellent conditions)								
UNITED STATES								
Vail	180	165	good	varied	good	sun	-10	17/12
(Excellent skiing but very cold: 27 lifts open)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

RADIO CHOICE

Thoughts on a vile trade

The Belly of the Beast. *Radio 4, 7.20pm.*

The finger of blame for the slave trade points in one direction — at the wicked Europeans — at the start of Lawrence Westgaph's quest. When it ends, it has swung like a pendulum between white skins and black. A Liverpudlian, of Jamaican/Nigerian parentage, Westgaph went to West Africa in an attempt to give some kind of cohesion to his fragmented thoughts about the system under which his ancestors were shipped from Africa to America in chains and in vessels that had sailed from his native city. His mother used to say to him: "No Liverpool — no slavery". In Ghana, he discovers a different truth about the share of responsibility Liverpool should bear for prosecuting the appalling traffic in human flesh.

Bitter Medicine. *Radio 4, 11.00am.*

Since last heard on Radio 4, in adaptations of other Sara Paretsky thrillers, her private eye V.I. Warshawski has had a voice transplant: it is now raucous. The explanation is that Warshawski is no longer played by Kathleen Turner but by Sharon Gless, the Cagney half of *Cagney and Lacey*, the television crimebusters. Different voice, same combative personality. Dramatised by Michelene Wandor, Paretsky's regular adapter, *Bitter Medicine*, respects precedent with its high body count. The victims are a 16-year-old wife, her unborn baby, and a hospital doctor. Plenty of raw emotions, rather too much music.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

7.00am Chris Evans**9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Lisa I'Anson **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier **7.00** Evening Session, with Jo Whiley and Steve Lamacq **9.00** Soundbite **10.00** Mark Radcliffe, live from Manchester **9.00** Soundbite, with Danny Kelly **12.00** Mary Anne Hobbs **4.00am** Clive Warren, with the Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** My Mammy and Me. A sit-com by Cathy MacPhail. With Eileen McCallum, Jake D'Arcy and Kate Donnelly **7.30** David Allan **9.00** Paul Jones **9.45** Gospel Train, with Carol Pemberton **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** Alex Lester, incl Pause for Thought

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, incl at **5.45** Wake Up to Money **6.00** The Breakfast Programme, incl at **6.55**, **7.55** racing preview **8.35** The Magazine **12.00** Midday with Mair, incl at **12.35pm** Moneycheck **2.05** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** Nationwide, incl at **5.45** Entertainment News **7.00** News Extra, incl at **7.20** Sports Bulletin **7.35** Head to Head **8.05** Inside Edge **9.05** SportsAmerica **9.35** Sportshop **10.05** News Talk **11.00** Night Extra, with Valerie Sanderson **12.05am** After Hours — Early Call, with Vincent Hanna **2.05** Up All Night, with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr *7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm* **12.00** Philip Hodson **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Sports Zone **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. News on the hour **5.30am** Europe Today **6.30** Europe Today **7.15** Off the Shelf **7.30** Network UK **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Composer of the Month **8.45** Health Matters **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Sports International **9.45** Sport **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Off the Shelf **11.30** Meridian On Screen **12.05pm** World Business Report **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Assignment **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack **3.05** Sport **3.15** From Our Own Correspondent **3.30** Network UK **4.15** World Today **4.30** BBC English **4.45** Britain Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sport **6.30** Assignment **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** John Peel **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian Books **10.30** World Today **10.45** Sport **11.10** Take Five **11.15** Record Progress **11.30** Ed Stewart **12.30am** Good Books **12.45** Britain Today **1.30** Outlook **1.55** Words of Faith **2.30** Pick of the World **3.15** Sport **3.30** Focus on Faith **4.30** Europe

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Mike Read **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Concerto. Weber (Clarinet Concerto No 1 in F minor, Op 73) **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Newsnight **6.30** Sonata. Saint Saens (Violin Sonata No 1 in D minor, Op 71) **7.00** Travel Guide **8.00** Concert: Humperdinck (Hansel and Gretel, Overture); Ravel (The Mother Goose); Dohnanyi (Variations on a Nursery Song, Op 25); Tchaikovsky (The Nutcracker Suite, Op 71a) **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Sally Peterson

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono's Breakfast Experience *10.00 Graham Dene* **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00** Nicky Horne **7.00** Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Randal Lee Rose

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Includes Tchaikovsky (String Quartet No 1 in F, Op 11); Rachmaninov (Piano Concerto No 1 in F sharp minor); Bach (Trio Sonata in C minor, BWV526); Haydn (Piano Concerto in G, H XVIII 4); Torke (Green); Delius (Violin Concerto)
8.50 An Advent Calendar
9.00 Morning Collection, with Penny Gore. Includes Vivaldi (Concerto in F, RV544 (Il Proteo sia Il Mondo Rovescio); Mendelssohn (Six Songs without Words, Op 53, Book 4); Bach (Jesus, Meine Freude, BWV227); Telemann (Trio No 5 in A minor (Essercizii musici)
10.00 Musical Encounters. Includes John Stanley (A Voluntary); Goldschmidt (Rondeau); Bach (Cantata No 71: Gott ist mein Konig); Bruckner (Erinnerung); Frankel (Clarinet Quintet, Op 28); Arnold (Song of Simeon) Lehmann (Suite: Cobweb Castle); Warlock, arr Carter (Lullaby my Jesus)
12.00 Composers of the Week: Ernest Chausson and Henri Duparc
1.00pm Opera Matinée: CD Pick of 1996. Weber's Der Freischütz. With Wolfgang Holzmair, baritone, Gilles Cachemaille, baritone, and Luba Orgonosova, soprano, Christine Schafer, soprano, Matti Salminen, bass, Endrik Wottrich, tenor, and Kurt Moll, bass. Berlin Radio Chorus, Berlin Philharmonic under Nikolaus Harnoncourt
3.35 Piano Quintets. The Takacs Quartet, Peter Frankl, piano. Schumann (Piano Quintet in E flat, Op 44); Brahms (Piano Quintet in F minor, Op 34) (r)
5.00 The Music Machine
5.15 In Tune. Includes Beethoven (Overture: Leonore No 1); Bach (Christmas Oratorio, BWV248, final part); Vivaldi (Cello Concerto in F, RV412)
7.30 BBC Symphony Orchestra under Andrew Davis. With Kyung-Wha Chung, violin, Nina Rautio, soprano, Markella Hatziano, alto, Bonaventura Bottone, tenor, Willard White, bass, BBC Symphony Choir, Royal Choral Society. Walton (Coronation Te Deum); Bruch (Violin Concerto No 1 in G minor); Verdi (Requiem) (r)
9.35 Femmes de Siècle, with Erica Jong, Michele Roberts and Yvonne Roberts
10.00 Music Restored. Anthony Rooley introduces music from the library of the Cavalier nobleman William Cavendish, including songs and consort music by Gibbons, Dowland, and William and Henry Lawes
10.45 Night Waves: *Little Eyolf* is one of Ibsen's last and most powerful dramas delving into the complex emotions of marriage and family life. As Adrian Noble's new production opens in Stratford, Hermione Lee discusses the current appeal of Ibsen
11.30 Composer of the Week: Simpson (r)
12.30am Jazz Notes. Includes a new biography of Scott Joplin and the second part of Steve Voce's interview with Oscar Peterson
1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW) 6.00 News Briefing **6.10** Farming *Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day* **6.30** Today **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00-10.00 Test Match Special (LW). Zimbabwe v England
9.00 News 9.05 The Moral Maze
10.00 Daily Serice (LW)
10.15 On This Day (LW)
10.00 News; The Wonderland Girls, by Marianne Carey. With Fiona Bell (4/4)
10.30-12.55 Test Match Special (LW). Zimbabwe v England
10.30 Woman's Hour. Introduced by Jenni Murray
11.30 From Our Own Correspondent
12.00 News; You and Yours
12.25pm Wordly Wise. Panel game exploring words and language **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.07-3.00 Test Match Special (LW). Zimbabwe v England
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Potted History, by Andrew Dallmeyer
3.00 The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brehan
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Allen reviews Adrian Noble's version of Ibsen's *Little Eyolf* on the Stratford stage and *The Messiah* as presented by the National Theatre of Brent
4.45 Short Story: The Christmas Party, by Dina Mehta. An invitation to a Christmas party from an ex-lover forces Myrtle to confront the shadow of her past. *Read* by Vayu Naidu.
5.00 PM, with Chris Lowe and Nigel Wrench **5.50** Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 The New York Stand-Up Comedy Show: *The Tree of* Hope. Amateur night at the Apollo Theatre in Harlem. Young comics, mostly black, await the chance for their first showbiz triumph
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 The Belly of the Beast. See Choice
8.00 Analysis: Order in the House. Cash for questions, arms for Iraq, MPs' pay — small wonder that public confidence in elected politicians is falling. John Kampfner asks whether the House of Commons needs fundamental reform, and whether the issue can be left to politicians
8.45 My Granny's Larder: Horlicks. Derek Cooper *takes a sideways look at the* early convenience foods that beame part of the cultural landscape
9.00 Does He Take Sugar?
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Jeremy Harris
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Great Pursuit, by Tom Sharpe (9/10)
11.00 Bitter Medicine. See Choice (1/6)
11.30 All About Eve. Lorelei King chats to the women who inspire her about the women who inspire them (r)
11.30 Today in Parliament (LW)
12.00 News incl **12.27** Weather
12.30pm The Late Book: Midnight Tales: A Dream of Red Hands, by Bram Stoker (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

Nightmare? More like a dream come true

Nightmare is an overused word these days, but you can't blame people for using it. What you can do, however, is blame people for thinking it's an original way of describing an unpleasant situation. "So what was it like being stuck in that lift with an escaped spider acrobat group, with flames licking the walls of your premature burial chamber?" asks the reporter. "Nightmare," comes the banal (though accurate) reply. You see, it doesn't matter that this person has never dreamt of spiders, and is not claustrophobic; it doesn't matter that his own personal nightmare is being late for a piano exam. "Nightmare!" we exclaim, and everyone looks sympathetic and says "I know!" People have started saying it was a nightmare in WH Smith's when there was a *queue of* five people at the till.

I always knew Mary Shelley had a nightmare and then wrote *Frankenstein*; what had somehow eluded me was the news that Bram Stoker followed suit *exactly* with Dracula. It turns out, then, that Christopher Frayling's **Nightmare: the Birth of Horror** (BBC1) is quite literally titled. In fact, this week's first two instalments both featured hammy reconstructions of 19th-century people writhing asleep in white nighties and then sitting up to yell "Aaaagh!" Stoker's own seminal dream (if I may be so bold) evidently concerned a trio of pneumatic virgin brides pouncing on his neck, only to be stopped by the command "This man belongs to me," uttered by a black-suited figure in a doorway. Since Sigmund Freud hadn't really got started in 1890, poor Stoker's only option was to head for Whitby and get cracking on a book.

If I had to choose a favourite form of telly entertainment, a series like this would rank high. Frayling is unfailingly interesting on telly, and horror literature is a pet subject of his, on which he published books when a mere academic. As Frayling ties his yellow Rupert-bear scarf and ascends a steep Wallachian rock, it doesn't matter too much that phoney flashes of lightning keep appearing in the sky, or that the sound-effects man with the thunder-sheet is ridden near to exhaustion. It doesn't even matter that the film clips come only from inexpensive sources. As in his memorable series about the impact of Tutankhamun on western ides, *Nightmare* tells a story about a story, and listening to it on a dreary December night is as comforting as hot chocky and blankets.

An item on food allergy featured in the last instalment of **Trust Me, I'm a Doctor** (BBC2) — an enjoyable series that with a bit more publicity could well become an institution

REVIEW

Lynne Truss

— and it reminded me of a woman I once met at a *Private Eye* lunch who refused to eat fish. "Can't you eat it?" I asked caringly, patting her hand. "No," she said. But instead of the expected food-allergy story, she went on: "Well, I once had a nightmare about wading across a swimming pool, and the thing was, hundreds of fish were nudging me, and nibbling my thighs, and it was horrible, horrible, and I can't stand fish any more, make it go away, I can't stand it."

Understandably, the *Trust Me* item made no allowances for nightmare-induced aversion, but was otherwise up to standard. Evidently the widespread allergy to peanuts in today's children stems from the quantities of peanut oil used in jars of baby food. The advice "This food contains nuts" is therefore not a matter of showing off, as I rather stupidly assumed it was. Other useful insights from last night's programme were that folic acid will soon be added to staple foods; that the circumcision of baby boys has no medical foundation; and that you are more likely to die while watching the National Lottery than win the jackpot.

This last, highly interesting statistic strongly implies that a lot of people *have* died while watching the lottery, but such sad news probably won't stop anybody buying a ticket. Dying during the lottery is a *distinction* of which many would perversely be proud. Just think, it could be you!

Ken Loach's **Modern Times: The Flickering Flame** (BBC2) concerned the agony of 500 Liverpool dock workers locked out a year ago, and not supported by their union. As you would expect from Loach, the film had an emphatic, lecturing quality (screen captions stating facts; narration from that serious actor Brian Cox), yet made admirably light work of union meetings. As with Jimmy McGovern's Hillsborough, *The Flickering Flame* was a case of public agenda-setting, of airing a complicated and painful story that has suffered from "media blackout". Curious, then, that the BBC only received *The Flickering Flame* on Tuesday, making it almost impossible for the press to see it before transmission.

Finally, Channel 4's wonderful animation series **Pond Life** (by Candy Guard) ended yesterday, with the usual 5.45 instalment just a taster for a double episode later on. Having raved about *Pond Life* on its first transmission, I still rave about it to anyone who will listen, and in the last two weeks have even plugged it on local radio stations in the course of trying to explain why single women are *funny*, for God's sake, and not asocial freaks who get down in the dumps at Christmas.

Anyway, in last night's final episode — *The Driving Test* — Dolly had the most convincing bad dream of the evening: her examiner turning into a dog just before reversing-round-a-corner. *Pond Life* deserves to be a classic. I just hope Channel 4 repeats it at a better hour. I mean, 5.45? What a *nightmare*.

BBC1

6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (95136) **7.00** BBC Breakfast News (T) (37987) **9.00** Breakfast News Extra (T) (1720890)

9.20 STYLE CHALLENGE (4610109)

9.45 KILROY (6446258)

10.30 CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK with *Kevin Woodford* (11172)

11.00 NEWS (T) and weather (3086242)

11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW Consumer advice (5067155)

11.45 SMILLIE'S PEOPLE (9632726)

12.00 NEWS (T), regional news and weather (8175659)

12.05pm SNOWY RIVER — THE McGREGOR SAGA (3176703)

12.50 MICHAEL BARRY'S CHOICE CUTS (30476600)

1.00 NEWS (T) and weather (30074)

1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (69697266)

1.40 NEIGHBOURS (T) *(29417242)*

2.00 CALL MY BLUFF (4277)

2.30 THE TERRACE Last in the series (797)

3.00 INCOGNITO (6664)

3.30 PINOCCHIO (r) (5744890) **3.50** Casper Classics (r) (1997242) **4.00** The Itsy Bitsy Spider (r) (1585600) **4.20** Julia Jekyll and Harriet Hyde (T) (8184635) **4.35** Smart Last in series (T) (7464277) **5.00** Newsround (T) (5022838) **5.10** The Biz (T) (8324345)

5.35 NEIGHBOURS (r) (T) (591682)

6.00 NEWS and weather (T) (426)

6.30 REGIONAL NEWS (906)

7.00 WATCHDOG Consumer magazine presented by Anne Robinson (T) (8093)

7.30 EASTENDERS Lorraine learns a secret and Grant has some apologising to do (T) (890)

8.00 ANIMAL HOSPITAL DOWN UNDER In the final programme from Australia, Rolf Harris *accompanies a flying vet to what* must be the world's smallest and most crowded veterinary surgery (T) (1513)

8.30 2POINT4 CHILDREN First of two-part story which concludes tomorrow. Ben's mid-life crisis is worsening and Bill inherits a mysterious gift (T) (3548)

9.00 NEWS (T), regional news and weather (6987)

9.30 THE THIN BLUE LINE Fowler faces a dilemma when Patricia announces she is to spend her leave on an organised protest against a new bypass (T) (45819)

10.00 CROCODILE SHOES: Boom Jed receives some vital *new information which leads him to the* men by whom he was framed. Last in series (T) (199971)

10.55 QUESTION TIME With Malcolm Rifkind, MP, Clare Short, MP, Matthew Parris, a *Times* columnist, and Valerie Amos from the Runnymede Trust (T) (355600)

11.55 CLIVE ANDERSON ALL TALK (r) (T) (801364)

12.30am FILM: Taste the Blood of Dracula (1970) starring Christopher Lee, Geoffrey Keen, Gwen Watford and Ralph Bates. A disciple of Dracula recruits three Victorian thrill-seekers to obtain the notorious Count's cloak, ring and dried blood. Directed by Peter Shady *(43827)*

2.00 WEATHER (5749597)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

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BBC2

6.00am OPEN UNIVERSITY: Tilings at the Alhambra (7502074) **6.25** Blue Haven (7521109) **6.50** The True Geometry of Nature (8755971) **7.15** See Hear Breakfast News (2854258) **7.30** The Legend of Prince Valiant (5602242) **7.50** Blue Peter (5786258) **8.15** Noddy (5421345) **8.25** Pingu (5349797) **8.35** The Record (6812364) **9.00** Coppermine (37074) **10.00** Playdays (2280109) **10.25** The Fugitive (8944884) **11.15** The Phil Silvers Show (5577172) **11.40** Flash Gordon's Trip to Mars (6387659) **12.00** Operation Survival (22426) **12.30pm** Working Lunch (50797) **1.00** Pingu (82013616) **1.05** Noddy (99415797)

1.15 FILM: Jassy (1947, b/w) Brooding drama starring Margaret Lockwood and directed by Bernard Knowles (63146155)

2.55 BRAINWAVES (1847971) **3.00** News (7803242) **3.05** The Natural World (2210180) **3.55** News (6786548) **4.00** Today's the Day *(819)* **4.30** Ready, Steady, Cook (703) **5.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (4453345) **5.40** Mary Berry (883513) **5.55** Turning Points (884258)

6.00 STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE (T) (525819)

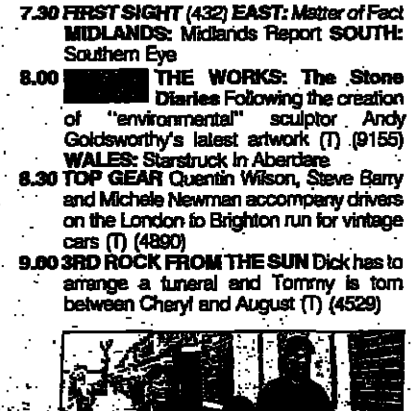
6.45 QUANTUM LEAP (r) (T) (663838)

7.30 FIRST SIGHT *(432)* **EAST:** *Matter of Fact* **MIDLANDS:** Midlands Report **SOUTH:** Southern Eye

8.00 THE WORKS: The Stone Diaries Following the creation of "environmental" sculptor Andy Goldsworthy's latest artwork (T) (9155) **WALES:** Starstruck in Aberdare

8.30 TOP GEAR Quentin Willson, Steve Berry and Michele Newman accompany drivers on the London to Brighton run for vintage cars (T) (4890)

9.00 3RD ROCK FROM THE SUN Dick has to arrange a funeral and Tommy is torn between Cheryl and August (T) (4529)



Young new East Enders (9.30pm)

9.30 BANGLADESH 25 Film maker Ruhul Amin documents the lives of Bangladeshis who have made London's East End their home (T) (951093)

10.15 ADS INFINITUM (851797)

10.30 NEWSNIGHT (T) (151971)

11.15 LOOKING FOR TAT (898600)

11.25 THE OLD LADY AND THE PIGEONS (609258)

11.45 CHAIRMAN'S ORDER Animation followed by **Siding Forecast** (207074)

12.00 PICTURE THIS (10730)

12.30am THE LEARNING ZONE: Open University: Out of the Melting Pot (54846) **1.30 Reflections on a Global Screen** (84488) **2.00 Believing: The Long Search: West Meets East/Loose Ends/Faith to Faith** (32169) **4.00 Business and Work: Winning** (94223) **5.00 Business and Work: The Small Business Programme/20 Steps to Better Management** (72827)

CHOICE

The Works: The Stone Diaries

BBC2, 8.00pm (Wales, 7.30pm; Scotland, tomorrow 6.45pm; not Northern Ireland)

National Lottery money reaches into the heart of rural Cumbria as the environmental sculptor Andy Goldsworthy sets to work on *his latest creation. This is no less than the* biggest public art project in Europe. Small wonder that it needed £340,000 from the Lottery. The idea is to build 100 sculptures and installations related to sheep farming and the landscape. Goldsworthy is also renovating hundreds of sheepfolds that have fallen into disrepair. The project is intended *as a tribute to the farmers and their* ancestors, who have been working the land for centuries. But not all of them take Goldsworthy's work as a compliment. "Neither use nor ornament", is one blunt verdict, while another local denounces the new sheepfolds as "a waste of brass." Used to this sort of thing, Goldsworthy is emollient and refuses to be discouraged.

Women At Play: Still Kicking

Channel 4, 8.00pm

Women of any vintage playing football is newsworthy, but when the average age of the team is 82 the temptation to make a *documentary about them must be hard to* resist. Nobody is pretending that Mary, Rose, Phyllis, Charlotte and Ivy, who make up a five-a-side combination called the Bombers, are fleet of foot. That they kick a ball as sweetly as they do is notable in itself, though any tendency to patronise is firmly resisted by the director, Sarah Swords. The quintet live in sheltered accommodation in Stockton-on-Tees. They started playing football to raise money for charity and their celebrity has spread across the English Channel. The sporting life is only one of their activities. Even more remarkable is a sequence in which Mary (88) and Charlotte (79) abseil down a giant pylon.

Bangladesh 25: New Eastenders

BBC2, 9.30pm

Complementing last week's excellent documentary about the birth of Bangladesh comes an equally perceptive view from Britain. Ruhul Amin was particularly well qualified to make it. He arrived in Britain at the age of 14 in late 1971, when his parents fled the civil war which confirmed Bangladesh's independence from Pakistan. His first impression of London, gained from the taxi window as they drove from Heathrow Airport, was seeing trees without leaves. His film recalls how London became a focus for the Bangladesh freedom movement and reflects on the experiences of Bangladeshis like his own family who made the East End of London their home. Mostly it has been a struggle, against racism, lack of jobs and the reluctance of a Western secular society to accept an influx of Muslims.

Crocodile Shoes: Boom

BBC1, 10.00pm

Now here is a funny thing. Jimmy Nail's series has been castigated for its cavalier attitude towards plotting yet this final episode is plot, plot and almost nothing else. It is as if, having strung out the mystery of *the record scam and the manager's death for* so long, Nail has got tired of teasing us and is determined to wrap everything up as rapidly as possible. For older viewers the denouement may call to mind one of those old Francis Durbridge serials, where the villain is finally exposed, makes a dash for it and meets a sticky end. The dialogue, *usually Nail's strength, hardly has a chance* and when it does surface it tends to lapse disappointingly into lines about lights at the ends of tunnels. For all that, it has been an enjoyable series.

Peter Waymark

HTV

6.00am GMTV (7769277)

9.25 CAPTAIN SIMIAN AND THE SPACE MONKEYS (4604548)

9.50 STEP BY STEP (2655345)

10.20 NEWS (T) (3550258)

10.25 REGIONAL NEWS (3559529)

10.30 FILM: Hearts on Fire (1991) starring Lesley Ann Warren and Tom Skerritt. A passionate love affair begins when a caring husband hires a woman to look after his wife, who has multiple sclerosis. Directed by Jeff Bleckner (23227258)

12.10pm CARTOON (9287258)

12.20 REGIONAL NEWS (1224123)

12.30 NEWS (T) and weather (9585722)

12.55 SHORTLAND STREET (9497513) **1.25** Coronation Street (r) (T) (6451646) **2.00** Home and Away (T) (94818136)

2.25 FILM: A Mom For Christmas (1990) Concluding the drama about a young *girl's wish being fulfilled* (9141971)

3.20 NEWS (T) (7983432)

3.25 REGIONAL NEWS (7982703)

3.30 THE RIDDLERS (5052105) **3.40** Wizadora (1993426) **3.50** Old Bear Christmas Special (1452141) **4.05** Scooby Doo (2886074) **4.15** Name That Toon! (1662703) **4.40** The Goggles' Christmas Giggle (T) (1645277)

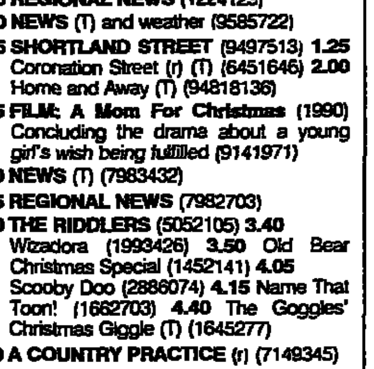
5.10 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (r) (7149345)

5.40 NEWS (T) and weather (609093)

6.00 HOME AND AWAY (r) (T) (156987)

6.25 HTV NEWS (234600)

7.00 EMMERDALE (T) (3161)



Cabbie Lee Walker (7.30pm)

7.30 TAXI A black cab has a hidden camera which records the unsuspecting occupants of the back seat (1/2) (T) (258)

8.00 THE BILL Monroe and Conway deal with an irate motorist (T) (9109)

8.30 MICHAEL BARRYMORE'S STRIKE IT RICH Game show (T) (8616)

9.00 FILM: Immediate Family (1990) with James Wood and Glenn Close. An affluent couple who are unable to *conceive a child arrange to adopt the* baby of a teenager, agreeing to finance her through pregnancy. Directed by Jonathan Kaplan. Concludes after the News (T) (4987)

10.00 NEWS (T) and weather (23109)

10.30 REGIONAL NEWS (369513)

10.40 FILM: Immediate Family *Concludes* (434161)

11.35 OASIS — BY THE SEA (208093)

12.35 NEIL YOUNG LIVE AT THE PHOENIX FESTIVAL (4369643)

1.35 NOT FADE AWAY (4830579)

2.35 FLUX (6439117)

3.35 LATE & LOUD *(r) (8386440)*

4.30 THE TIME . . . THE PLACE (45001)

5.00 THE NEW MR & MRS SHOW (r) (20204)

5.30 NEWS (15285)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

12.55pm HOME AND AWAY (9497513)

1.25 SIMPLY DELICIOUS AT CHRISTMAS (30111074)

1.55 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (29594345)

2.20 VANESSA (90218172)

2.50-3.20 HIGH ROAD (3563722)

5.10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET (7149345)

6.25 CENTRAL NEWS (164906)

11.35 THE EUROPEAN PREMIERE OF EVITA (519708)

12.20am COOL VIBES (9462778)

12.35 WORLD MUSIC AWARDS (595556)

2.30 NOT FADE AWAY (6442681)

3.25 PLANET ROCK PROFILES (67613136)

3.55 FLUX (8306204)

4.50 JOBFINDER (79609001)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.55 EMMERDALE (9497513)

1.25-1.55 MASTERCRAFT (30111074)

1.55 HOME AND AWAY (21054426)

2.25-3.20 DR QUINN, MEDICINE WOMAN (9141971)

5.10-5.40 HOME AND AWAY (7149345)

6.00-7.00 WESTCOUNTRY LIVE (55242)

11.35 HUNTER (208093)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

12.55 DINOSAURS (9497513)

1.25 HOME AND AWAY (30111074)

1.55 SHORTLAND STREET (29594345)

2.20 HOPE AND GLORIA (90218172)

2.50 A WORLD OF WONDER (3563722)

5.10 HOME AND AWAY (7149345)

6.00 MERIDIAN TONIGHT (722)

6.30-7.00 ANYTHING YOU CAN DO (154)

11.35 PRISONER CELL BLOCK H (208093)

4.30am BEYOND REASON (45001)

5.00 FREESCREEN (20204)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:

12.55pm CROSS WITS (9497513)

1.25 HOME AND AWAY (30111074)

1.55 PERFECTLY PETS (21054426)

2.25-3.20 DR QUINN, MEDICINE WOMAN *(9141971)*

5.10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET (7149345)

6.30-7.00 ANGLIA NEWS (154)

11.35 HIGHLANDER (208093)

S4C

Starts: 6.35am PRO STARS (8832074) **7.00 THE BIG BREAKFAST** (57797) **9.00 Film: THE PHANTOM TOLL BOOTH** (36668242) **10.35 THE LEGEND OF WHITE FANG** (8819529) **11.05 THE PINK PANTHER** (7601277) **11.30 DOG CITY** (7157221) **11.50 TERRYTOONS** (3565074) **12.00 HOUSE TO HOUSE** (13722) **12.30pm A BOX FULL OF STORIES** (41093) **1.00 SLOT MEITHRIN** (50884) **1.30 LEMMING AID** (56670136) **1.45 Film: THE LONGEST DAY** (81444123) **5.00 5 PUMP** (1567) **5.30 COUNTDOWN** (451) **6.00 NEWYDDION** (235249) **6.05 HENO** (167093) **6.35 SION A SIAN** (316432) **7.00 POBOL Y CWM** (361797) **7.25 PENBLWYDD HAPUS** (625838) **8.00 HOSANAWALI** (2221) **8.30 NEWYDDION** (6258) **9.00 Y PALMANT AUR** (2529) **10.00 MATERION TRAMOR** (14451) **10.30 Film: POSSE** (50527529) **12.35am DISPATCHES** (6077556) **1.20 TRAVELS WITH MY CAMERA** (3018952)

CHANNEL 4

6.35am PRO STARS (8232074)

7.00 THE BIG BREAKFAST (57797)

9.00 FILM: The Phantom Toll Booth (1970) Animated version of the children's classic, directed by Chuck Jones (T) (36668242)

10.35 WHITE FANG (8819529) **11.05** Pink Panther (7601277) **11.30** Dog City (7157221) **11.50** The Adventures of Tintin (3565074) **12.15** Super Mario Brothers (13722) **12.30** A Box Full of Stories (41093) **1.00** Sesame Street (46548) **2.00** Lonely Planet (9587426)

2.45 FILM: A Connecticut Yankee In King Arthur's Court (1989) Screen version of Mark Twain's classic. Directed by Mel Damski (95915242)

4.30 COUNTDOWN (T) (971) **5.00** Ricki Lake (T) (2213093) **5.45** Pink Panther (r) (973180) **6.00** New Gamesmaster (T) (364) **6.30** Hollyoaks (T) (616)

7.00 CHANNEL 4 NEWS (T) (716529)

7.50 THE SLOT (774987)

Rose, Ivy and Phyllis (8.00pm)

8.00 WOMEN AT *PLAY:* Still Kicking A report on the Argyll Bombers women's football team, whose youngest player is 73 (T) (2221)

8.30 TV DINNERS Chef Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall observes amateur cooks as they prepare opulent dinner parties. Tonight, Australian diva Felicity Keebaugh prepares a dinner for an eclectic group of guests and Wendy Ingham cooks her first big dinner after attending a cookery course (T) (6258)

9.00 DISPATCHES A teacher goes undercover in her own school to reveal the true state of life in the British *classroom (r) (T) (969451)*

9.45 THE LLOYDS BANK FILM CHALLENGE: Cold Season In the last of the competition series for young scriptwriters, Tim Weaver from Bath tells the story of John, a bullied 19-year-old with learning difficulties who takes a courageous step forward (T) (891155)

10.00 FILM: Shopping (1993) Sean Bean and Marianne Faithfull star in this tale of two rival ram-raiding gangs set in a crumbling industrial wasteland which is transformed at night into a surreal no-man's land. Directed by Paul Anderson (T) (185529)

11.45-12.00 MOVIEWATCH (r) (129242)

12.15am BRETT *BUTLER:* The Child Ain't Right The American comedian recorded during a live performance in San Francisco (6934204)

12.50 THE NIGHTMARE YEARS Concluding the true story of an American journalist working in Nazi Germany (r) (T) (397001)

2.35 FILM: A Midsummer Night's Dream (1935, b/w) James Cagney, Mickey Rooney and Olivia de Havilland star in Shakespeare's magical comedy (3949515) Ends at **5.00**

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**

SKY 1

7.00am Love Connection (4245987) **7.20** Press Your Luck (4258451) **7.40** Jeopardy! (3302971) **8.10** Hotel (5764068) **9.00** Another World (4351147) **9.45** The Oprah Winfrey Show (7170093) **10.40** Real TV (4000906) **11.10** Sally Jessy Raphael (9632906) **12.00** Geraldo (80906) **1.00pm** 1 to 3 (57277) **3.00** Jenny Jones (96093) **4.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (24600) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (3180) **6.00** The New Adventures of Superman (79890) **7.00** The Simpsons (1109) **7.30** The Simpsons (7635) **8.00** The Simpsons (7529) **8.30** The Simpsons (9364) **9.00** The Bible: Samson and Delilah (33068) **11.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (93567) **12.00** The New Adventures of Superman (62204) **1.00am** LAPD (47594) **1.30** Real TV (54372) **2.00** Hit Mix Long Play (26575)

SKY 2

7.00pm Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (122606) **8.00** Police Rescue (1131426) **9.00** Dress Gray (1134513) **11.00** Late Show, with David Letterman (1562600) **12.00 FILM: James Clavell's Tai-Pan** (2871846) **2.00am** Hit Mix Long Play (6978310)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Running Free (1994) (31074) **8.00** *Charro!* (1969) (51093) **10.00 Smoky** (1966) (72967) **12.00 Young at Heart** (1995) (41616) **2.00pm Krull** (1983) (37884) **4.00 Kid Galahad** (1962) (2884) **6.00 The Enemy Within** (1994) (3778221) **7.40** US Top 10 (435971) **8.00 The Chase** (1994) (25093) **10.00 Disclosure** (1994) (28786548) **12.10am Before the Night** (1995) (418933) **1.55 The Man Next Door** (1995) (897846) **3.30 Jack Reed: A Search for Justice** (1995) (14730)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Tintin: The Lake of Sharks (1972) (46835) **7.30 A Journey to the Centre of the Earth** (1990) (41722) **8.30 Oliver Twist** (1984) (54364) **10.00 Tropic Zone** (1953) (70529) **12.00 Big Dreams and Broken Hearts** (1995) (49258) **2.00pm Escapade in Japan** (1957) (35426) **4.00 Oliver Twist** (1994) (3646) **6.00 Rookie of the Year** (1993) (11890) **8.00 Mixed Nuts** (1994) (44890) **9.30 The Movie Show** (983221) **10.10 Little Odessa** (1994) (288451) **11.55 A Woman Scorned** (1993) (434368) **1.45am Bloodlust: Subspecies III** (1993) (2500020) **3.10 Dangerous Intentions** (1994) (530681) **4.45 The Lake of Sharks** (1972) (41730)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Murder Most Foul (1964) (8560364) **6.00 Flying Leathernecks** (1951) (3957703) **8.00 Smokey and the Bandit III** (1983) (3969548) **10.00 No Man's Land** (1987) (8251890) **11.50 Death Wish II** (1982) (5378074) **1.30am House of Games** (1987) (4804643) **3.15-5.30 Limelight** (1952) (68299169)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Mouse Tracks (4891277) **6.25** Quack Attack (4807884) **6.50** Bonkers (8984364) **7.15** Darkwing Duck (6546726) **7.40** Aladdin (3271364) **8.05** Goof Troop (3772635) **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa (3936068) **8.40** Sing Me a Story (8869797) **9.05** Grounding Marsh (5406797) **9.30** Big Garage (3618884) **9.45** Play Along! (400549) **10.15** Muppet Babies (9712190) **10.40** Mickey's Prince and the Pauper (7586161) **11.10** Mouse Tracks (8936258) **11.40** Umbrella Tree (9193819) **12.10pm** Fraggle Rock (3724180) **12.35** Mickey's Christmas Carol (1239884) **1.05** Goof Troop (82065451) **1.30** Aladdin (94154068) **1.55** Darkwing Duck (84235987) **2.25** Bonkers (88711451) **2.50** Deck the Halls (3113938) **3.20** Timon and Pumbaa (6822074) **3.30** Goof Troop (7647068) **3.55** Timon and Pumbaa (1118987) **4.05** Goof Troop (4819249) **4.35** Bonkers (2200258) **5.00** Aladdin (7432258) **5.25** Timon and Pumbaa (8745987) **5.35** Darkwing Duck (335906) **6.00** Bone Chillers (8971) **6.30** Blossom (5481) **7.00** Home Improvement (5109) **7.30 FILM: One Christmas** (71884) **9.00** Home Improvement (82664) **9.30-10.00** *Golden Girls* (17185) **Sky Movies Gold takes over at 10pm.**

SKY SPORTS 1

6.30am Sports Centre (96548) **7.00** Racing News (20635) **7.30** Cricket: Zimbabwe v England — Live (1487242) **3.30pm** Football: Superstar Coaching — Graham Le Saux (4703) **4.00** Ten Pin Bowling (28616) **4.50** Sports Centre (2797242) **5.00** Wrestling (4448) **6.00** Sports Centre (6887) **6.30** Football: Superstar Coaching — Mark Bosnich (4567) **7.00** Cricket: Zimbabwe v England **10.00** Sports Centre (46155) **10.30** Boxing (70857) **11.30** Fishing (36513) **12.30am** Sports Centre (87952) **1.00** Football: Netbusters (66730) **2.00** Boxing (43952) **3.00-3.30** Sports Centre (70846)

SKY SPORTS 2

8.00pm Fishing (6629529) **9.00** Football League Review (6532093) **10.00** Football Netbusters (6535180) **11.00** Football Scrapbook (3768635) **12.30am-1.00** Hall of Fame: *Rugby Union — Francois Pienaar* (7138407)

SKY SPORTS 3

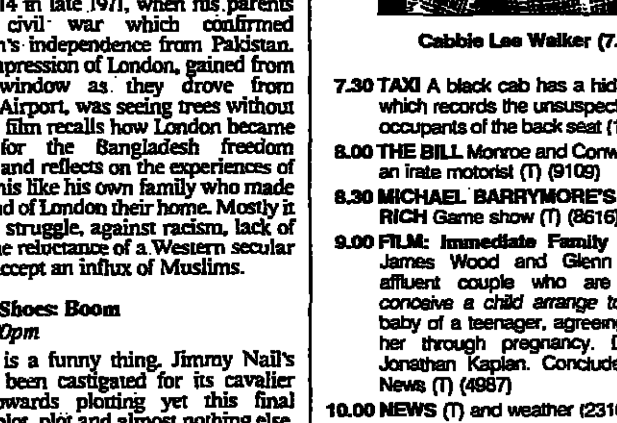
12.00 Football: Best of All Time — English XI (43494513) **1.00pm** Football (43576161) **2.00** Pool: Mosconi Cup 1996 — Live (71202664) **5.00** Rebel Sports (41034548) **5.30** Motorsport (83644884) **6.00** Beach Volleyball (43490797) **7.00** Sports Centre (41941884) **7.30** Pool: Mosconi Cup 1996 — Live (38402884) **10.30** World of Sailing (91258265) **11.00** Rebel Sports (10895635) **11.30-12.00** Sports Centre (94159797)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Equestrianism (90068) **8.30** Swimming — Live (32906) **9.00** Cross-Country Skiing (33242) **10.00** Bobsleigh (23722) **11.00** Motors (10258) **12.00** Karting: Review of the Season (70600) **1.00pm** Freestyle Skiing: World Cup (14074) **1.30** Snowboarding (63364) **2.00** Cross-Country Skiing (8277) **2.30** Figure Skating (97884) **4.30** Olympic Magazine (7890) **5.00** Football (24887) **7.00** All Sports: Euro SportsGags (2093) **7.30** Triathlon: Hawaii Ironmen (76258) **9.00** Equestrianism — Live (47797) **10.30** Boxing (99635) **11.30-12.30** Truck Racing (34109)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Krypton Factor (5788987) **6.30** Once Upon a Time (29955616) **6.45** Our Backyard (82882109) **7.00** Alphabet Zoo (7183884) **7.15** Once Upon a Time (8251364) **7.30** The Return of the Antelope (1239161) **8.00** Classic Coronation Street (1550432) **8.30** The Krypton Factor (1559703) **9.00** Families (1477155) **9.30** Albion Market (5077258) **10.00** Goostrey, a Village (6053074) **10.30** Leave It to Charlie (1579567) **11.00** Love for Lydia (1255109) **12.00** Classic Coronation Street (1560819) **12.30pm** Surgical Spirit (5071074) **1.00** The Practice (1153797) **1.30** Families (5070345) **2.00** After the War (6054703) **3.00** Leave It to Charlie (1577155) **3.30** All in a Day's Work (1440258) **4.00** Sam (2010600) **5.00** Love for Lydia (1664835) **6.00** Classic Coronation Street (1366242) **6.30** Families (1453722) **7.00** Holding the Fort (1685364) **7.30** Surgical Spirit (1458906) **8.00** Sam (6489529) **9.00** Classic Coronation Street (2912109) **9.35** The Good Life Guide (2963616) **10.00-11.00** Shades of Darkness (8495180) ***From 11.00pm-2.00am Men and Motors***



Steve Martin in the comedy *Mixed Nuts* (Movie Channel 8.00pm)

GRANADA GOOD LIFE

From 6.00am-9.00 TV High Street. Includes consumer news and features and Your Stars presented by Russell Grant **From 9.00-12.00 Food and Wine.** Includes recipes and ideas from Delia Smith **From 12.00-3.00pm Health and Beauty.** *Includes Natural Health* **From 3.00-6.00 Home and Garden.**

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

Films, features and classic series every day from **8pm-4am** Monday to Wednesday and **1am-4am** Thursday to Sunday on satellite, and from **8am-4am** every day on cable

TLC/DISCOVERY

9.00am The Joy of Painting (4642238) **9.30** *The Great Gardening Plot* (2919277) **10.00** Go Fishing (9297345) **10.30** Hometime (4631722) **11.00** The Restoration Game (1240513) **11.30** Craftwise (1241242) **12.00** Two's Country Cooking (4622074) **12.30pm** Graham Kerr (2913093) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (1880971) **1.30** Home Again, with Bob Vila (2912364) **2.00** Furniture to Go (7873616) **2.30** Grow Your Greens (9123548) **3.00** *Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures* (7885451) **3.30-4.00** This Old House, with Steve and Norm (8128093) **DISCOVERY takes over at 4.00pm.** **4.00pm** Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures (8034600) **4.30** Roadshow (8030884) **5.00** Time Travellers (7791068) **5.30** Terra X (8127364) **6.00** Wild Things: Untamed Africa (2825884) **7.00** Next Step (7877432) **7.30** Arthur C. Clarke's World of Strange Powers (8031513) **8.00** The Professionals (1631890) **9.00** Top Marques 2 (1333277) **9.30** Fightline (2900529) **10.00** Classic Wheels (1558513) **11.00** Fields of Armour (1338722) **11.30** Fields of Armour (9293529) **12.00** Classic Wheels (8087662) **1.00am** The Extremists (5435407) **1.30-2.00** Special Forces (7895575)

UK GOLD

7.00am Going for Gold (2624703) **7.35** Crossroads (2255242) **8.00** Neighbours (8972722) **8.25** EastEnders (2320616) **9.00** The Bill (4548068) **9.30** One by One (8898702) **10.30** The Sullivans (4633180) **11.00** Softly Softly Task Force (1888513) **12.00** Crossroads (40567529) **12.25pm** Neighbours (40550616) **12.55** EastEnders (1470513) **1.30** Terry and June (1857068) **2.10** A Little Bit of Emery (28927600) **2.20** Brush Strokes (1775074) **3.00** Sale of the Century (7894109) **3.30** The Bill (8120451) **4.00** All Creatures Great and Small (1339451) **5.00** EastEnders (6037093) **5.35** Crossroads (6894242) **6.00** Get Some In! (8126635) **6.30** Ever Decreasing Circles (7130600) **7.05** Bob's Full House (6817432) **7.45** The Other One (9176797) **8.20** Victoria Wood as Seen on TV (2653093) **9.00** The Equalizer (1557884) **10.00** Taggart (91224432) **11.05** The Bill (2595695) **11.35** Miami Vice (5082345) **12.30am FILM: Hot Enough for June** (6193001) **2.05** Shopping at Night (15029556)

TCC

6.00am Swan's Crossing (4800971) **6.20** Meadows: No Naked Flames (4984987) **6.45** Halfway Across the Galaxy and Turn Left (974548) **7.15** Ready or Not (964161) **7.45** California Dreams (963432) **8.15** Sweet Valley High (418567) **8.45** Art Attack (9312919) **9.00** Tiny TCC (9698548) **9.20** Brum (9505884) **9.40** Johnson and Friends (1081867) **10.00** Robin and Rosie of Cockleshell Bay (8362659) **10.20** Philbert the Frog (6399703) **10.40** Charlie Chalk (4286345) **11.00** Dinobabies (71722) **11.30** Jim Henson's Animal Show (72451) **12.00** Barney (78722) **12.30pm** Where's Wally? (30223) **1.00** Casper and Friends (95074) **1.30** Tiny and Crew (94150242) **1.55** Johnson and Friends (41704074) **2.20** Bump (30743659) **2.40** Mr Benn (3615677) **3.00** Halfway Across the Galaxy and Turn Left (6074) **3.30** Ready or Not (6161) **4.00** California Dreams (1068) **4.30-5.00** Sweet Valley High (6180)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (37068) **6.30** Biker Mice from Mars (89690) **7.00** Captain Simian and the Space Monkeys (28277) **7.30** Tales from the Cryptkeeper (34884) **8.00** Mighty Max (46109) **8.30** Hey Arnold (39180) **9.00** Rugrats (19616) **10.00** Real Monsters (11682) **10.30** Doug (25616) **11.00** Rocko's Modern Life (35906) **11.30** Pete and Pete (36635) **12.00** The Secret World of Alex Mack (43068) **12.30pm** Ren and Stimpy (77567) **1.00** The Ferals (27548) **1.30** Space Cases (78839) **2.00** Clarissa Explains It All (4451) **2.30** Doug (7600) **3.00** Real Monsters (1118) **3.30** Stickin Around (2345) **4.00** Bruno the Kid (4180) **4.30** Rugrats (5744) **5.00** Sister Sister (4835) **6.00** Moesha (8529) **6.30-7.00** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (2109)

PARAMOUNT

7.00pm Diff'rent Strokes (5567) **7.30** Benson (1093) **8.00** Due South (63277) **9.00** Almost Perfect (42242) **9.30** Taxi (57703) **10.00** Entertainment UK (44797) **10.30** Girls on Top (26345) **11.00** Manmade News (27987) **11.30** Nightstand (34155) **12.30am** Sledge Hammer! (85594) **1.00** Due South (64372) **2.00** Entertainment UK (92643) **2.30** Manmade News (11778) **3.00** Girls on Top (78488) **3.30-4.00** Almost Perfect (95730)

BRAVO

12.00 Fantasy Island (2823426) **1.00pm** Remington Steele (2905074) **2.00** Manimal (9112600) **3.00** Fantasy Island (1249884) **4.00** Moses (7823093) **6.00** Thunderbirds (2925838) **7.00** The Champions (1553068) **8.00** Starsky and Hutch (1635616) **9.00** Crime Story (1648180) **10.00-12.00 FILM: The Beyond** (1248155)

UK LIVING

6.00am Kilroy (1235635) **7.00** The Agony Experience (1862180) **7.30** The Young and the Restless (3241258) **8.20** Ken Hom's Chinese Cookery (1057884) **8.55** dj Turnabout (8425890) **9.25** Trivial Pursuit (1957154) **10.00** Entertainment Now! (6494345) **10.05** The Jerry Springer Show (1995567) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (1500258) **11.55** Brookside (22225093) **12.25pm** Call the Doctor (40011364) **12.50** Gabrielle (2522513) **1.40** Rolonda (9199426) **2.30** The Agony Experience (2136722) **3.00** Live at Three (5178890) **4.00** Who's Sorry Now? (2127074) **4.30** Talkabout (2384093) **5.05** Lingo (45490600) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (2147838) **6.00** I Dream of Jeannie (2137451) **6.30** Ready, Steady, Cook (4880203) **7.05** Brookside (4980971) **7.35** Trivial Pursuit (4894818) **8.00** General Practise (3956074) **9.00 FILM: Scandal in a Small Town** (9959161) **11.00-12.00** The Sex Files (1775600)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Blockbusters (8819) **5.30** Treasure Hunt (51074) **6.30** Catchphrase (2797) **7.00** The Pyramid Game (5155) **7.30** Hart to Hart (54839) **8.30** Only When I Laugh (6828) ***9.00*** *Bergerac* (96529) **10.00** Stay Lucky (99616) **11.00** Bagdad Cafe (63703) **11.30** FM (77180) **12.00** Lou Grant (42488) **1.00am** Bergerac (17488) **2.00** Hart to Hart (87310) **3.00** Lou Grant (68372) **4.00** All Together Now (69339) **4.30-5.00** The Black Stallion (72763)

MTV

The 24 hour music channel. Includes news, reviews, live concert footage, interviews and the latest music video charts

VH-1

The video hits channel. Classic rock and pop videos and the best new sounds

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran **7.30** Lifestyle East **8.30** Pakistan Business Update **9.00** Hit Thi Hit Hai **9.30** Your Zindagi **10.00** Bharat Ek Khoj **11.00** Shakti **11.30** Banegi Apni Baat **12.00** Dastaan **12.30pm** Nukkad **1.00 Hindi FILM: Aazmaish** **4.00** ZEE Top 10 **5.00** ZEE Zone **5.30** Kya Scene Hai **6.00** Yoodle Ae Oo **6.30** ZEE and You **7.00** Teri Bhi Chup Meri Bhi Chup **7.30** Cinemagic **8.00** News and Euronews (54156502) **8.30** Andaz **9.00** Jaal **9.30** Hasratein **10.00** Commander **10.30** Chehre **11.00** Zee Horror Show **11.30-12.00** Aap Ki Farmaish

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 9pm, then TNT films as below.

9.00pm The Cold Sassy Tree (1989) With Faye Dunaway and Richard Widmark (38213364) **11.15 Go Naked in the World (1961)** With Gina Lollobrigida and Tony Franciosa (71079068) **1.00am The Secret Partner (1961)** With Stewart Granger (72651556) **2.40-5.00 The Cold Sassy Tree (1989)** (89097407)

PERFORMANCE

7.00 Stan Getz (3952258) 8.00 Aria (8563451) 8.30 God Rot Tunbridge Wells (3208857) 10.30 Dvorak's Stabat Mater (1447838) 12.00 Chick Corea (6693730)

[illegible] 1150

مكرر مع الاصل

SPORTS BOOKS 36

The prince of Welsh rugby who gave it all away

SPORT

EQUESTRIANISM 37

Scandal dominates early proceedings at Olympia show

THURSDAY DECEMBER 19 1996

Off spinner checks Zimbabwe's advance after Campbell's swashbuckling start

England rescued by imperial Croft

From Simon Wilde in Bulawayo

BULAWAYO (first day of five; Zimbabwe won toss): Zimbabwe have scored 256 for six wickets against England

WHAT could have ended as a day of acute embarrassment for England was turned into one of satisfactory achievement through the excellent bowling of Robert Croft on the first day of the inaugural Test match against Zimbabwe here at Queens Club yesterday. Zimbabwe, at times 130 for one and 206 for three, reached stumps on 256 for six on a pitch already offering slight turn.

If England are to take control of the game there is still much work to be done. Andrew Flower and Paul Strang, Zimbabwe's seventh-wicket pair, both have Test centuries to their names and Strang is also a promising spin bowler who may subsequently have an even more important role to play in the outcome of the match. The reason that Strang's brother, Bryan, a left-arm seamer, is playing any part at all is because Brandes turned an ankle in practice yesterday morning and was forced to pull out.

Flower has already taken firm root and resumes today on 58, having been at the crease more than three hours and faced 174 balls. He has so far dealt capably enough with Croft, whose figures of three for 45 from 29 probing overs suggest England have discovered their best off-spin bowler for years.

By giving Silverwood a first Test cap rather than Caddick a recall — a decision that cannot be dismissed as a failure, as Silverwood sustained damage yet finished with two wickets — England opted to field one of their least established attacks in recent memory. In addition to the new boy, Gough was playing his first Test for more than a year, Tufnell his first for two years, while Croft — though no one would have thought it — had played for England only once before, at the Oval four months ago.

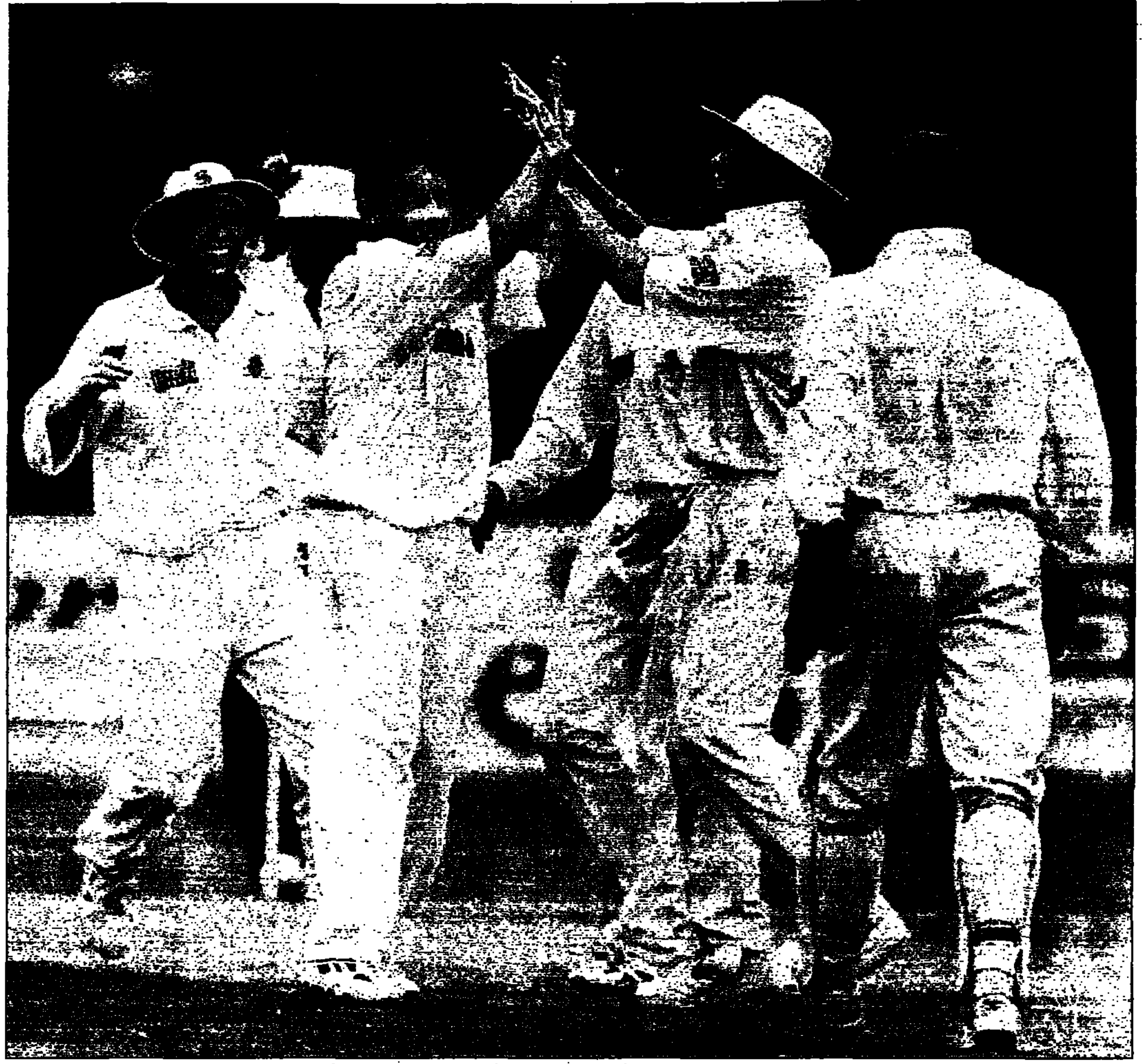
This meant that Mullally was cast in the role of senior performer and he failed, woefully, to live up to the part. After Gough had given England a wonderful start by forcing Carlisle to fend off his third ball of the day into the hands of Crawley at short leg, giving Gough his first Test wicket for 18 months, Mullally became the central figure in as inept a session of cricket as England have produced for many a year, and that is saying something.

Within minutes of Carlisle's departure, the new ball was being systematically wasted, the zest had disappeared from England's game and runs were flowing like water off Victoria Falls. For this, credit must be given to the left-handed Alistair Campbell, who was unfazed by his modest record at Test level (he has yet to score a century in 21 Tests) and the fact that he was captaining Zimbabwe for the first time in a home Test, and proceeded to tear into the England attack.

Even he admitted, though, that he would not have played such a positive game had not the balls been there to hit. Within his first 15 balls he had struck four fours, three of them pulled and driven in the same Mullally over, and no sooner had Silverwood come into the attack than he was dispatched for three fours in one over as well. Campbell scored 50 in 70 minutes and by lunch had moved on to 70, fed on a diet that he consumed with relish.

At the other end, no less ominously, Grant Flower, who batted 11 hours for an unbeaten double-century when Zimbabwe recorded their only Test win, over Pakistan last year, had dropped anchor. In the first hour he scored 12, in the second 22; and it was his dismissal, to a brilliant diving catch by Hussain at third slip off Silverwood 40 minutes into the afternoon, that marked the turn in England's fortunes.

CLIVE MASON / ALLSPORT



Croft is congratulated by his England colleagues as appeals for a catch at short leg against Waller are upheld at Queens Club yesterday

Three overs later, Croft, whose first ball of the day earned a concerted appeal for leg-before against the Zimbabwe captain, finally got his man when he threw the ball up to Campbell, inviting him to drive, and saw the ball skew high to Silverwood at backward point. Campbell had again missed out on a century but his 84, in a score of 136 for three, was worth its weight in gold to his pride.

England had no further success before tea but, as the temperature dropped from its cruellest heights, they enjoyed by far the best of the final session. During it they conceded only 56 runs and claimed the wickets of Houghton, who would have had his sights set on nothing less than a century, Waller and Whittall.

It was now that Atherton first employed Croft and Tufnell in tandem and now that Croft bowled his most telling spell, 12-6-7-2. Houghton, who had begun edgily but settled in, went back to defend and was beaten by extra bounce, and Waller, on his debut, pushed forward and was caught at short leg.

By now, Croft was getting the ball to turn. Among the skills of this intelligent cricketer are that he knows how to set a field and knows what pace to bowl on certain pitches so as to give the ball, and himself, a chance. People queued up to speak words of praise for him yesterday, including David Lloyd, the England coach, and Campbell, but the Welshman was not getting carried away.

"I am a confident cricketer but I have played long enough to know that every day you have to go out there and be up for it," he said. "When I was first chosen by England it came as a surprise and I told myself: 'Make sure you enjoy it'." He certainly did that yesterday and without him England would have been in a sorry mess.

BULAWAYO SCOREBOARD

(Zimbabwe won toss)

ZIMBABWE: First Innings

G W Flower c Hussain b Silverwood (151min, 100 balls, 5 fours)	43
S V Carlisle c Crawley b Gough (7min, 3 balls)	0
*A D R Campbell c Silverwood b Croft (156min, 136 balls, 13 fours)	84
D L Houghton c Stewart b Croft (99min, 60 balls, 1 six, 3 fours)	34
†A Flower not out (199min, 174 balls, 7 fours)	58
A C Waller c Crawley b Croft (53min, 47 balls, 1 four)	15
G J Whittall c Atherton b Silverwood (37min, 30 balls, 1 four)	7
P A Strang not out (17min, 14 balls)	0
Extras (lb 2, w 2, nb 11)	15
Total (6 wkts, 92 overs, 384min)	256

H H Streak, B C Strang and H R Olonga to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3 (G W Flower 2), 2-130 (Campbell 80), 3-136 (Houghton 2), 4-206 (A Flower 35), 5-235 (A Flower 47), 6-252 (A Flower 54).

BOWLING: Mullally 14-3-43-0 (nb 1, w 1; 6 fours; 5-1-19-0, 3-1-11-0, 4-0-9-0, 2-1-4-0); Gough 21-4-70-1 (nb 5, w 1; 8 fours; 6-3-13-1, 4-0-16-0, 5-1-16-0, 4-0-15-0, 2-0-10-0); Silverwood 13-4-50-2 (nb 5; 7 fours; 4-0-25-0, 6-1-25-1, 3-3-0-1); Croft 29-12-45-3 (1 six, 5 fours; 5-1-16-0, 11-4-22-1, 12-6-7-2, 1-1-0-0); Tufnell 15-2-46-0 (nb 1; 4 fours; 3-0-8-0, 4-0-19-0, 8-2-19-0)

SCORING NOTES (first day): Lunch: 109-1 (30 overs, 123min; G W Flower 34, Campbell 70) Tea: 200-3 (60 overs, 245min; Houghton 33, A Flower 31). Second new ball: 242-5 (84 overs) at 4.25pm.

ENGLAND: N V Knight, *M A Atherton, †A J Stewart, G P Thorpe, N Hussain, J P Crawley, R D B Croft, D Gough, A D Mullally, C E W Silverwood and P C R Tufnell.

Umpires: R S Dunne (New Zealand) and I D Richardson Third umpire: R B Tiffin.

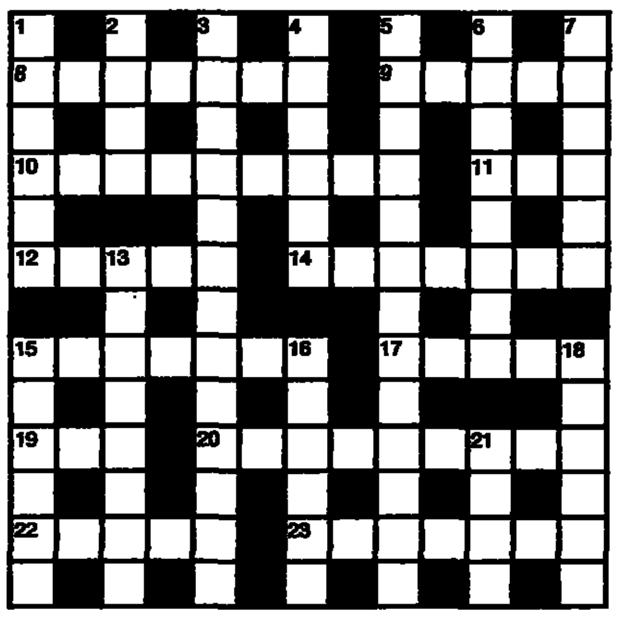
Match referee: Hanumant Singh (India)

TEST TO COME: Second (Harare): December 26

☐ *Compiled by Bill Frindall*

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 969 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS
- 8 Carry out; kill (7)
- 9 Baby barn or snowy bird (5)
- 10 Soft-cover book (9)
- 11 Unopened flower (3)
- 12 Infantry weapon (5)
- 14 Personal; a soldier (7)
- 15 Release (slave) (7)
- 17 Symbolic item; special-use coin (5)
- 19 Auction item (3)
- 20 Devoted to luxury (9)
- 22 Small wood (5)
- 23 Be given (7)

DOWN
- 1 Plain ring; museum official (6)
- 2 Pile (4)
- 3 Officer i/c stores (13)
- 4 Make off (6)
- 5 Pallet-shifting vehicle (4-4,5)
- 6 New Zealand rugby player (3,5)
- 7 Heavy food (6)
- 13 Work properly; formal social event (8)
- 15 Of evil intent (6)
- 16 Herald's jacket (6)
- 18 Centres (of cells, atoms) (6)
- 21 Identical counterpart (4)

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THE RUNNER-UP will receive a return ticket to anywhere on British Midland's domestic network. British Midland offers an extensive range of destinations throughout the UK as well as Europe. With over 1,400 flights a week to 15 European destinations British Midland are the Airline of Europe.

All flights are subject to availability.

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Tuesday.

Name/Address ....

SOLUTION TO NO 968

ACROSS: 1 Hatchet job 8 Cabaret 9 Idiom 10 Suez 11 Pedantic 13 Craze 14 Cress 16 Monmouth 17 Zany 20 Large 21 Genetic 22 Retrospect

DOWN: 1 Hocus 2 Table manners 3 Hark 4 Tether 5 Oligarch 6 Tittle-tattle 7 Smacks 12 Veronese 13 Comely 15 Stager 18 Yacht 19 Onus

Newcastle to unveil plans for stadium

By Our Sports Staff

NEWCASTLE United will today map out its financial future by outlining plans for a new stadium and a stock market flotation. Explaining the thinking behind a bigger stadium, Sir John Hall, the club's owner, said: "We're very conscious that the kids can't get in. The next generation can't get into the stadium. We've been too successful."

The combination of a bigger stadium and a share issue would offset some of Sir John's heavy investment in players and pave the way for further spending. St James' Park has a capacity of only 36,610 at a time when the club could attract 50,000-plus crowds.

Graham Courtney, the club's press officer, said: "We have got plans for a new stadium and tomorrow we'll say where we want it to go. Where it does go and what it is like is up to the council. If they don't approve the plans, we'll have to think again."

The club's preferred site is believed to be on Castle Leazes Moor, but it has also been suggested that it might move out of Newcastle to a site in Gateshead.

Hall had originally planned to float his ambitious scheme to create a sporting club, with basketball, ice hockey and rugby teams, along the same lines as Barcelona. However, it is now thought that only the football club will move for a full market listing, with estimates of a value for the club ranging between £140 million and £200 million.

Newcastle flotation, page 21

Owen's worries spread to fleet

By Edward Gorman, Sailing Correspondent

JUST a week after *3Com* lost her forestay, another BT Global Challenge yacht has suffered a similar structural failure as the fleet continues through the Southern Ocean, towards Wellington, in tough conditions.

The failure on *Global Teamwork* of the 85ft, 14mm stainless steel wire stay that runs from the top of the mast to the bow, is a worry for race organisers and the technical director, Andrew Roberts, because it reinforces the possibility that the fault may be replicated, to some degree, on many of the 14 boats.

The crew on *Global Teamwork* was extremely disappointed to discover the fault after putting up a strong performance on this leg, having led for much of the way before holding third place. Early yesterday they were again making gains on their nearest rivals, the leader, *Group 4*, and the second-placed *Save The Children*, when the failure was discovered during a rig check.

The inspection revealed that five of the 19 strands of wire that comprise the stay had broken. "The breaks are at the top of the mast," Merfyn Owen, the skipper, said. "We took the mainsail down, slackened off the rig and sent a man up the mast to drop the forestay to the deck with the idea of cutting the wire and reterminating the stay. This was a plan we had had since first hearing of the problems on *3Com* and finding two broken strands ourselves."

However, the rough conditions have prevented the crew from completing a repair because of the danger of dropping any of the fittings over the side. *Global Teamwork* was thus plodding along under reduced sail and unable to carry any canvas on her forestay. "Unless we can find a period of relatively calm sea to undertake a jury rig, prospects for an early improvement in our performance are bleak," Owen said.

In the case of *3Com*, the forestay sheared right through but the crew was able to save the mast by quickly replacing the broken stay with two halyards. Since then, David Tomkinson has managed to reinstate the wire in the way that Owen is now hoping to.

BT Challenge chart 37

Several other crews have also found breaks in the stays, including *Save The Children*, where there are worrying signs of deterioration in both the forestay and the backstay.

The latest ranking order, meanwhile, shows that *Group 4* and *Save The Children* are still fighting it out at the front, a good 60-70 miles ahead of four boats that are evenly matched in third position. They are *Toshiba Wave Warrior*, *Concert*, *Motorola* and, until yesterday at least, *Global Teamwork*.

In the Vendée Globe single-handed non-stop round-the-world race, Pete Goss, of Great Britain, on *Aqua Quorum*, is in ninth position, 2,632 miles behind the race leader. Christophe Auguin, of France, on *Geodis*. The second Briton, Tony Bullimore, on *Exide Challenger*, was in eleventh, and last, position.

Mansell refusing to take a back seat

NIGEL MANSELL yesterday denied that he has retired from Formula One for good after turning down the chance to drive for Jordan-Peugeot next season.

There appeared to be no way back for Britain's 1992 world champion after his decision to reject Eddie Jordan's approach, but yesterday he said: "I haven't retired. Other opportunities are possibly out there. I am a very patient person, a little bit older now and more mature, and I'm just going to wait and see what is round the corner."

Mansell was just 0.3sec off the pace set by Ralf Schumacher in testing last week, despite being out of a grand prix car for 19 months after his embarrassing comeback with McLaren.

Despite being excited by the prospect of competing at the top again, and the lure of a probable £5 million fee, Mansell turned down the chance of returning as the sport as its oldest driver.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my test in Barcelona and the professionalism and atmosphere of the Benson and Hedges Jordan team was as good as any I have ever worked with," Mansell said.

"However, after consultations with my family and business advisers, I quickly came to realise that my schedule would not permit me to give sufficient time to the Jordan team and their sponsors."

Mansell will now concentrate on his golf complex in Devon, where he has reduced his handicap from five to one in the last year.

Judged "England's Best"

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